

GARDINER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, July 12, 2017
Gardiner City Hall

Mayor Thomas Harnett called the regular Council Meeting to order at 6:23 p.m.

Roll Call:

Mayor Thomas Harnett; Councilors Terry Berry, Tim Cusick, Shawn Dolley, Phil Hart, Maryann White, Jon Ault & Patricia Hart; Also present were Interim City Manager Anne Davis and City Clerk Lisa Gilliam.

PETITIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS (Public comment for anything not on agenda):

Mayor Harnett opened the meeting up for public comment; hearing none, Mayor Harnett closed this portion of the meeting.

Consent Agenda:

Executive Session per M.R.S. §405 (6)(F): Foreclosure Buy Back Discussion:

Mayor Harnett stated the Council began Executive Session at 6:00 p.m. on a motion made by Councilor Cusick and seconded by Councilor White. Executive Session ended at 6:20 p.m.

Mayor Harnett said the Council would like to make a motion on this item. Motion by Councilor Berry to authorize the city staff to work with the owners of 21 Warren Avenue with the collection of outstanding taxes; motion seconded by Councilor Cusick. Motion carried by unanimous vote 8-0.

Consideration of vacant position on MSAD#11 School Board:

Interim Manager Davis said there were two applicants who would like to speak and following their introductions there would be a paper ballot vote made by the City Council to determine who will fill the vacancy on the School Board. Curtis Ayotte was the first applicant to introduce himself and gave a brief overview of his interest in filling this vacancy. Next was Anthony Veit who also gave a brief history of his background and why he was interested in filling this vacancy. A brief discussion followed.

Interim Manager Davis provided paper ballots to the City Councilors to vote and determine who would fill the vacancy. After counting the ballots, the Council announced and congratulated Tony Veit on being the next member of the School Board.

Consideration of naming the road behind Tiger Town (along the stream):

Interim Manager Davis asked the Council to table this item for this meeting due to a conflict in the choice of names for the street. Motion by Councilor Phil Hart to table the naming of the road behind Tiger Town; motion seconded by Councilor Berry. Motion carried by unanimous vote 8-0.

Interim Manager Davis said this item would be brought forward to the next City Council meeting.

Request to remove a "stop" sign at the intersection of Harrison Ave. and Winter St.:

Manager Davis said that Public Works Director Tony LaPlante and Police Chief James Toman have recommended that this sign be removed. There are currently "stop" signs at the top of Winter Street, at the intersection of Harrison/Winter and Highland Avenue and at the end of Harrison Avenue at the same intersection. The Harrison Avenue "stop" sign is redundant. Discussion followed. Motion by Councilor Ault to direct city staff to remove the stop sign at the Harrison Ave-Winter St. intersection; motion seconded by Councilor Berry. Discussion continued.

Councilor Cusick expressed his concern with the removal of the sign and the potential confusion it may cause; he suggested there be more input and discussion with public safety about these concerns. After a

brief discussion the council agreed to table this item. There was no vote taken on the motion by Councilor Ault. Motion by Councilor Patricia Hart to table the request to remove a "stop" sign at the intersection of Harrison Avenue and Winter Street; motion seconded by Councilor White. Motion carried by unanimous vote 8-0.

Consideration of Board & Committee Appointment:

Interim City Manager Davis said a Committee Request Form had been received from Jean Claveau for the Economic Development Committee. EDC Chair Sue Crawford has also recommended his appointment. Motion by Councilor Berry to appoint Jean Claveau to the Economic Development Committee; motion seconded by Councilor Cusick. A brief discussion followed. Motion carried by unanimous vote 8-0.

Consideration of City Council Minutes:

Interim Manager Davis said the Council had been presented with the minutes to review; the City Council meeting minutes are dated June 7th & 28th, 2017. Motion by Councilor Berry to approve the City Council meeting minutes dated June 7, 2017 and June 28, 2017; motion seconded by Councilor Cusick. Motion carried by unanimous vote 8-0.

Discussion of State Budget/Homestead Exemption Reimbursement and Consideration of Amending the FY18 Excise Review:

Interim Manager Davis introduced Finance Director Denise Brown to review this item with the City Council. In light of the State's enacted budget, which implements the increase of the Homestead Exemption, but does not increase the reimbursement back to the City, she would recommend that City Council approve amending the \$990,000 FY18 excise revenue to \$1,050,000 to offset the impact of approximately \$60,000. Discussion followed. Motion by Councilor Ault to approve the amendment of the FY18 excise revenue from \$660,000 to \$1,050,000; motion seconded by Councilor Patricia Hart. A brief discussion followed. Motion carried by unanimous vote 8-0.

Ms. Brown then encouraged residents to apply for the Homestead Exemption, the Senior Tax Relief Program and the Senior Sewer Tax Relief Program. Mayor Harnett agreed that residents who qualify should take advantage of these tax relief programs that are available.

COUNCIL REPORT:

- Councilor Berry – No report.
- Councilor Cusick – He said he has received some complaints about the new bathrooms at the Gardiner Waterfront; he said the complaints were lack of supplies and the bathrooms being locked up. Manager Davis said the public bathrooms have had a limited opening so far due to a few issues, which included people living in them and the walls being vandalized. The city is looking into timed locks on the building and installing security cameras. Currently the bathrooms are being locked at 8pm and opened early by Public Works. Councilor Cusick suggested the bathrooms be checked on during the weekend hours as well. He then thanked Public Works for sweeping the arcade parking lot and noted there are potholes behind Gerard's Pizza that are in the city right of way that need to be addressed.
- Councilor Dolley – He said the Farmer's Market is open every Wednesday and they have live music, which is very enjoyable for the public.
- Councilor Phil Hart – He said the Waterfront Concerts have been getting rained out the past few weeks and that he hopes for better weather so that future shows can be enjoyed outside at the Gardiner Waterfront.
- Councilor White – She also stated that she has been to the Farmer's Market and that it's open on Wednesdays from 3pm to 6:30pm and she encourages people to stop by.
- Councilor Ault – He said the Duct Tape Council will have a Pot Luck Dinner on July 26th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and all are invited. He was also happy to see the Warden's Report back online and thanked our State Senator Shenna Bellows for her efforts to get this website back online.

Councilor Ault also thanked the members of Gardiner Rescue who developed the Warden's Report site.

- Councilor Patricia Hart – She mentioned the upcoming July 20th BBQ for Gardiner Business Owners. She has attended the Waterfront Concerts and encouraged the public to attend this live music event that also has good food vendors. Councilor Hart also mentioned that the school will be receiving more money from State funds than originally expected and she would like the School to be invited to speak with the council about these funds and what their plans will be for the money when received; Mayor Harnett agreed it would be a good idea to ask them to speak with the Council at a future meeting.
- Mayor Harnett – Facetime was at Johnson Hall tonight and they announced upcoming shows, it was a very nice event. Lots of activity in the downtown area and it's good to see that area thriving with activity. Two Gramps Brewing was approved at last night Planning Board Meeting. There were 5 ribbon cuttings on Monday for new businesses.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- On Monday July 24th at Gardiner Main Street there will be a Cobbossee Trail Advisory meeting and the Council is invited to attend from 2pm to 3:30pm. They will be discussing the progress of the trail at this meeting.
- The Library is still being run efficiently. The average is 35 kids in attendance for story hour.
- City Staff is focusing on tax acquired properties and these properties will be brought to the City Council to decide if and when they will be processed. Councilor Berry asked for an updated list of properties.
- The Vision Data program has been removed from the City's website. In the meantime, tax cards are available for these properties and the city will not charge fees for photo copies until the new program is in place. The new program will be available in September.
- There will be one more City Council meeting this month and then one at the end of August.

Executive Session per M.R.S. §405 (6)(A):

Motion by Councilor Phil Hart to begin executive session per M.R.S. §405 (6)(A) to discuss employee compensation; motion was seconded by Councilor White. Motion carried by unanimous vote 8-0.

Executive Session began at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Lisa Gilliam, City Clerk