

GARDINER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, April 11, 2018
Gardiner City Hall

Mayor Thom Harnett called the regular Council Meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Roll Call:

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

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

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

Discussion and potential vote to create an Economic Development Director position:

In the FY19 budget presentation, Council will see a budget that includes this position with a net increase of \$52,800 to next year's budget. With the departure of Patrick Wright as the City's part-time Economic Development Coordinator, the Interim City Manager would recommend that this full-time position be reinstated. Currently, the City is working on lot sales at the Libby Hill Business Park, working with a developer on the Summer Street project, managing the downtown facade grants and will soon be replacing the two bridges in the downtown area.

Interim City Manager will report on alternate solutions to creating this position.

Interim City Manager reviewed the options presented to the Council. Councilor Berry said he felt that the Gardiner Main Street Director and the Economic Development Director should be the same person. Mayor Harnett said these two positions are distinctly different and require them to be two positions. Councilor Cusick said he was not in favor of this position due to the cost this puts on the tax payers of Gardiner; he noted that the new budget is increased as is and there is already an increase in sewer costs. Councilor Cusick said the focus needs to be on hiring a City Manager. Councilor Dolley said he is in favor of this position being kept separate from the Director of Gardiner Main Street. Councilor Ault expressed his concerns for the taxpayers as well and the burden of one more increase on the community. Discussion continued. Mayor Harnett reminded the Council that the budget is proposed at this time and that adjustments can be made that would allow this position to be worked in. Councilor Hart advocates for the growth of the community; she also suggested that once the City Manager position is filled the Council can then determine what needs will have to be met with the hiring of an Economic Development Director. Councilor White is in agreement with Councilor Hart's "middle of the road" proposal with hiring a City Manager and then see what needs will have to be met for the Economic Development Director. Discussion continued. Interim City Manager Davis said it would not be likely that an EDD would be hired prior to the hiring of a City Manager. Mayor Harnett suggested this item be left in the budget as they move forward and use current funds in this years budget to pay the cost until the next year begins. Anne suggested that KVCOG send in someone to speak to the Council about hiring for this position.

Mayor Harnett asked Gardiner Main Street Director to speak first. Mr. Wright reviewed the job description and what the City needs for this position. He provided the list of projects that are ongoing and the need for this position.

Louis Segal, Richard Rambo and Debby Willis each spoke in favor of this position remaining in the budget and the need to have this need continue for the community.

Discussion concluded and no action was taken by the City Council.

FY19 Budget Discussion Regarding Library, Technology, General Government, Planning/Economic Development, and Wastewater Budget Requests:

Councilors will hear presentations from these Departments Heads. The budget workshop schedules are as follows:

April 11, 2018: Discussion Regarding Library, Technology, General Government, Planning/Economic Development, and Wastewater Budget Requests

April 18, 2018: Discussion Regarding Public Works, Buildings & Grounds, & Community Services Budget Requests

May 2, 2018: Public Hearing, Discussion and Debate on FY18 Budget

May 16, 2018: Continued Discussion and Debate on FY18 Budget

June 6, 2018: Public Hearing and First Read on FY18 Budget

June 20, 2018: Public Hearing and Second/Final Read on FY18 Budget

The City Council did not need to take any action on this item.

Finance Director Denise Brown and Interim City Manager Davis reviewed the proposed FY19 Budget as presented. Doug Clark

Vote on an amendment of Conservation Easement held by Kennebec Land Trust to permit construction of a fish passageway; and Authorization of Interim City Manager to Execute Amendment:

The AG's office has requested that this Consent Motion approved at a previous Council meeting include a signed amendment for the Court filing. Before the City executes the action, I would like to present this to the City Council for authorization. Stated differently, although the City Council has authorized participation in the case, it has not necessarily authorized the ultimate specific outcome of the case.

Motion by Councilor Ault to authorize Interim City Manager Anne Davis to execute an amendment to the conservation easement held by Kennebec Land Trust described in Book 5521, Page 14 of the Kennebec County Registry of Deeds in the form as presented, and to take all other necessary and appropriate steps to effectuate this amendment to conclude the pending case; motion seconded by Councilor White. Motion carried by unanimous vote 8-0.

Per 1 M.R.S. §405 (6)(C): Executive Session to discuss a Real Estate matter:

Motion by Councilor
per M.R.S. §405 (6)(C), I move that we go into Executive Session to discuss a real estate matter; motion seconded by Councilor

Cancelled

Consent Agenda:

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Council will be asked to extend the moratorium.
- City Manager interviews are still in the process and will be discussed at a future meeting.
- Deb Butterfield received the librarian of the year award. She is currently at the school.
- Chief Toman and Interim Manager spoke to minister committee.

CITY COUNCIL UPDATE:

- Councilor Berry thanked PW for filling the pot hole on Winter Street.
- Councilor Cusick met with resident on Highland Avenue about concerns with PW. Lettering on PW truck... has it been ordered yet? Truck needs to be identified.
- Councilor Dolley – None
- Councilor Rines – None
- Councilor White – Resident had concerns about standing water on Highland Avenue. Interim Manager and Mayor also met with this resident to help resolve the issue, as well as PW Director Tony Laplante.
- Councilor Ault – There is an exchange student in need of a host family for about one month if anyone may have any suggestions. Earth Day Clean Up will be happening in Gardiner in the next few weeks. There is a 5K race coming up on April 28th.
- Councilor Hart – Housing Committee will hopefully be active again soon. Manager Davis said they are trying to accomplish a set time for meetings to begin again soon. 8% of the budget for wastewater is for electricity. Anne said Doug is working on it.
- Mayor Harnett – Art reception at Art Dogs this past Sunday that was excellent. Attended the award ceremony for Deb Butterfield was wonderful. Read to little kids at the library, which is always an enjoyable experience. World Fish Migration Day is coming up, as is the Music Walk in a few weeks. Tomorrow night he will be at the Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year Dinner in Augusta.
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ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn White 2nd Cusick. Carried 8-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Lisa Gilliam, City Clerk