

Mayor Hart called the meeting to order at 6:07pm.

1. ROLL CALL & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Patricia Hart, Mayor at large; Councilors: Terry Berry, District 1; Colin Frey, District 3; Tim Cusick, At large; Amy Rees, District 2; Marc Rines, District 4; Maryann White, At large
Absent: Jon Ault, At large;

Also in attendance: City Manager, Christine Landes; City Clerk, Kelly Gooldrup; Economic Development Director, Tracey Desjardins; City Librarian; Anne Davis, Waste Water Director; Doug Clark, Code Enforcement Officer, Kris McNeill; Police Chief, James Toman; Fire Chief, Al Nelson; Public Works Director, Tony LaPlante; State Representative, Thomas Harnett

2. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion of City Response Surrounding Gardiner's COVID-19 Protocol in Response to National Emergency

Each Department Head gave a brief overview of how they are preparing and responding to the COVID-19 outbreak.

- a) Fire Chief Al Nelson
- b) City Manager Christine Landes
- c) Police Chief James Toman
- d) Finance & Human Resource Director Denise Brown
- e) Library Director Anne Davis
- f) Sewer Superintendent Douglas Clark
- g) Economic Development Director Tracey Desjardins
- h) Public Works Director Tony LaPlante

2. Approve Library Closure in Response to COVID-19

Councilor Berry moved to approve an immediate closure of the Gardiner Public Library until April 30, 2020 and waive all late fines.

Councilor White seconded.

Mayor Hart asked for any discussion. Seeing none. All those in favor. Unanimous.

3. Approve City Hall Closure in Response to COVID-19

Councilor White moved to approve a closure of the Gardiner City Hall to the public for 14 days absorb the Informe fees during that timeframe.

Councilor Frey seconded.

After discussion among the room, Councilor Frey withdrew his second and Councilor White amended the original motion.

Councilor White moved to approve the closure of Gardiner City Hall to the public effective Tuesday March 17, 2020 for fourteen days.

Councilor Frey seconded.

Mayor Hart asked for any discussion. Seeing none. All those in favor. Unanimous.

4. Authorize decision making to the City Manager in Response to COVID-19

Councilor Rees moved to give the City Manager the authority to make decisions that would normally go in front of the City Council, when the City Manager consults with the Mayor for the next fourteen days.

Councilor Cusick seconded.

Mayor Hart asked for any discussion. Seeing none. All those in favor. Unanimous.

5. Approve the Closure of all City Buildings in Response to COVID-19

Councilor Rees moved to close all City buildings to the public unless by special approval for the next fourteen days.

Councilor Cusick seconded.

Mayor Hart asked for any discussion. Seeing none. All those in favor. Unanimous.

6. Adopt City Manager's COVID-19 Announcement

Councilor Berry moved to adopt the attached announcement from the City Manager regarding COVID-19 procedures and protocols.

Councilor White seconded.

Mayor Hart asked for any discussion. Seeing none. All those in favor. Unanimous.

7. Announcement by Maine State Representative, Thomas Harnett in Response to COVID-19

Maine State Representative, Thomas Harnett gave a brief update from the State House.

City Manager Landes asked Representative Harnett to speak about some proposed bills going to the legislature.

Rep Harnett responded that last year he allocated for remote participation, which was defeated.

We are trying again to get it passed through the legislature. There is a lot more work to be done. I will be back with more updates.

3. Other Business in Response to COVID-19

1. Staying on Top of Community Needs

Councilor Rees suggested creating/joining a Facebook group.

City Manager Landes replied that there is already a Facebook group regarding the COVID-19 and can send an invite to everyone to join the group.

2. Stay Informed

Mayor Hart commented that we can have phone meetings, website and social media updates. Councilor Rees stated people need to stay calm, don't panic, pay attention and take this virus serious.

Councilor White here here.

3. ADJOURN

Councilor Cusick moved to adjourn.

Councilor Berry seconded.

Mayor Hart asked for any discussion. Seeing none. All those in favor. Unanimous 8:18pm.

This document was approved during the March 25, 2020 City Council Meeting.