



**GARDINER CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET**

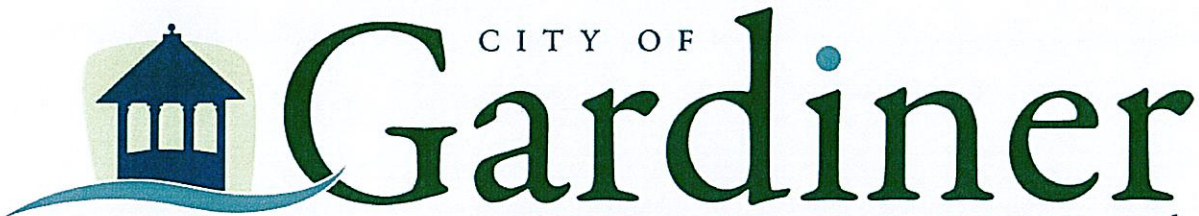


Meeting Date	12/06/2023	Department	Code Enforcement
Agenda Item	4j. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes		
Est. Cost	N/A		

Background Information	see attached information
-------------------------------	--------------------------

Requested Action	"I move to approve the minutes from the November 15, 2023 regular meeting of the Gardiner City Council."
City Manager and/or Finance Review	
Council Vote/ Action Taken	
Departmental Follow-Up	

City Clerk Use Only	1 st Reading _____	Advertised _____	EFFECTIVE DATE _____
	2 nd Reading _____	Advertised _____ w/in 15 Days	
	Final to Dept _____	Updated Book _____	Online _____



CITY OF
Gardiner
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES *Moving Forward*
GARDINER CITY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, November 25, 2023

1. ROLL CALL / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

City Council Present: Mayor Hart, Councilor Grant, Councilor Frey, Councilor Berry, Councilor Cusick, Councilor Greenleaf, Councilor Babcock.

City Employee's Present: City Manager Carlton, Kathy Cutler- City Clerk, John Cameron- Public Works Director, Todd Pilsbury- Chief of Police, Doug Clark- Waste Water Director, Rick Sieberg- Chief of Fire, Melissa Lindley- Economic Development Director, Dawn Thistle- Library Director.

Other Present: Secretary of State- Shenna Bellows, Dee Berglund, Aurelie Allen, Carol Schumaker, Connie Greenleaf, Kate Carnes, Debbie Kimball.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: There are no comments.

3. PETITIONS / PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- a) Public Hearing Regarding an increase to the Minimum Sewer Rate

Mayor Hart opened the public hearing at 6:09pm. There being no comment she closed the public hearing at 6:10pm.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

- a) Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes from November 1, 2023

Action: Councilor Frey moved to approve the City Council minutes from November 1, 2023. Councilor Berry seconded the motion. No further discussion. Unanimously approved.

- b) Approval of a Mayoral Proclamation

The City of Gardiner is taking this time to recognize Carol Schumaker for her time and dedication to the election, and the City of Gardiner. She has lived in the City for almost 24 years and has worked at the election every single year she has lived here. This proclamation includes making November 25, 2023, the 'Carol Schumaker Day'.

Action: Councilor Greenleaf moved to approve the Mayoral Proclamation for Carol Schumaker. Councilor Cusick seconded the motion. No further discussion. Unanimously approved.

- c) Consent to approve a Mayoral appointment to the Parks Committee
Action: Councilor Grant moved to approve the Mayoral appointment of Margaret Barter, Cathy Calgano, Mark MacDonald, Tamara Whitmore, and Melissa Lindley to the Parks Committee. Councilor Frey seconded the motion. No further discussion. Unanimously approved.
- d) Certification of the November 7, 2023, election results
Action: Councilor Berry moved to certify the election results from November 7, 2023, results. Councilor Greenleaf seconded the motion. No further discussion. Unanimously approved.
- e) Cobbossee Trail Report from the Cobbossee Trail Committee
More information regarding this can be found on the City of Gardiner website.
Action: Councilor Greenleaf moved to accept the Cobbossee Trail committee report. Councilor Berry seconded the motion. No further discussion. Unanimously approved.
- f) Consent to spend \$16,000.00 in remaining ARPA funds to replace the Bobcat Side by Side
We currently have a Bobcat side by side, purchased used, quite a few years ago. This current UTV is beyond repair. This is a big asset to the city, to have this tool for the volunteers working around the city so they can transport their necessities needed to do the work they do.
Action: Councilor Berry moved to approve spending up to \$16,000 in ARPA funds to replace the Bobcat Side by Side. Councilor Grant seconded the motion. No further discussion. Unanimously approved.
- g) Advise and consent to an increase to the minimum Sewer rate
City Manager Carlton- Just a reminder of what we are asking for is a 30% increase shared across the board for the users. Councilor Grant- why is it just an increase on Gardiner sewer users, not on everyone who uses the service? City Manager Carlton- The other towns using this service will see an increase at some point, they pay a portion of the overall budget for wastewater. Gardiner citizens are the only rate payers for wastewater. The other communities will see an increase when phase two increase goes out. Mayor Hart- This is always painful to increase because it hits the most vulnerable, the solution that they came up with is a way to spread it out to everyone instead of just to the larger families.
Action: Councilor Cusick moved to approve the 30% increase to the minimum sewer rate effective for the January 2024 billing. Councilor Frey seconded the motion. No further discussion. Unanimously approved.
- h) Approval of a large event on December 1, 2023, in Dearborn Park; Tree Lighting
Action: Councilor Greenleaf moved to approve the large event in Dearborn Park; Tree Lighting. Councilor Cusick seconded the motion. No further discussion. Unanimously approved.

- i) Approval of The Celebration of Lights on December 9, 2023
Action: Councilor Greenleaf moved to approve the event Celebration of Lights. Councilor Grant seconded the motion. No further discussion. Unanimously approved.

- j) Department Head Reports
Thank you to the department heads for the reports.

- k) Consent to Council appointment to District 2
Request for her to fill the vacancy for the remaining 3 weeks. Veronica was sworn in and is now serving in this seat.
Action: Councilor Cusick moved to approve the appointment of Veronica Babcock to fill the vacant seat in District 2. Seconded by Councilor Greenleaf. No further discussion. Unanimously approved.

5. CITY MANAGER REPORT:

Paving has concluded in the city for the year, with some of the projects not finished that were supposed to get done. We would like to get some of this work done before the great race early this spring. We had FEMA on sight this week on Harrison Ave, for a sight inspection. We are at a roadblock because of joint ownership with the Water district, but that is getting figured out. Harrison Ave is starting to tilt away, and cracking. This will not get fixed until spring so we will have to get creative with plowing this winter. There will be a neighborhood meeting about Harrison Ave. I have been in contact with a few engineers about the facility here and what it would take to get a new building, and I am hoping to hear back this week. City Hall will be closed Wednesday November 22nd at noon, and closed Thursday November 23rd for Thanksgiving. Gardiner Rotary has invited City staff for breakfast Thursday November 30, 2023, to be recognized for all their hard work. City Hall will be open from 10am-4pm that day.

6. CITY COUNCIL REPORT:

Mayor Hart: We have moved the seating arrangements in the council room to make it easier to identify who is responsible for what area. Welcome to our new District 2 representative Veronica Babcock, thank you for serving early. We have several events coming up this holiday season: Shop Small Saturday, Dearborn Park Tree Lighting, and Celebration of Lights just to name a few. Make sure to check the calendar so that you do not miss anything. I hope everyone has a safe and happy Thanksgiving!

Councilor Grant: Welcome Veronica., we appreciate your interest to serve, and to have another woman on the council. We are coming into Thanksgiving, I want to let you know how thankful I am for the city staff, our front line, and our community. Everyone is so important, and we thank you for all that you do so selflessly each day.

Councilor Frey: Welcome to Veronica Babcock.

Councilor Babcock: I am excited and honored to serve the city.

Councilor Berry: Councilor Grant mentioned the \$600,000 that was awarded to Gardiner for the act of transportation from DOT, which could potentially be used for sidewalks, does that have a timeline on when that money will evaporate? The point being is why not slide this money into a project we can get started now versus the possibility of losing it. There should be a game plan set in place so that we do not miss this opportunity. Councilor Grant- City Manager Carlton and I are collaborating with DOT regarding this.

Councilor Cusick: Welcome Councilor Babcock.

Councilor Greenleaf: Nothing to report.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a) Enter into Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A § 405(6)D-Contract negotiations.

Action: Councilor Cusick moved to enter executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A § 405(6)D-Contract negotiations at 7:05pm. Councilor Frey seconded the motion. No further discussion. Unanimously approved.

8. ADJOURN:

Action: Councilor Greenleaf moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:59pm. Councilor Berry seconded the motion. No further discussion. Unanimously approved.

2023 MEETING DATES

12/20/23