

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
GARDINER CITY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2013
EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:00 p.m.
REGULAR SESSION 7:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – per MRSA, Title 1, Chapter 13, Section 405 (6) (A) Personnel, City Manager Evaluation On a motion made by Councilor Pat Hart and second by Councilor Barron session opened at 6:10 and closed at 6:55.

ROLL CALL- Councilor Heath Tardy, arrived 9:30

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, & RESOLUTIONS

1. Public Comment for anything not on the Agenda –no public comment
2. Public Hearing and First Reading first reading of Domestic Livestock Ordinance - 30 members of the public in attendance. **John McMillan**-27 Johnson St. –Can the council vote after just 1 reading? City Manager Morelli: No there will be a second reading. **Chad Thorne**-519 Nash Rd. Pittston. Livestock Producer- Raises Shelton Sheep – has concern for farm animals, 4000 square feet per animal is not enough, it's too stressful on the animals. It is not cheaper to raise the animals than buy the milk. **Marcina Johnson** – 12 Plaisted St. Owns mini goats. The goats are 60 lbs. maximum and 24 inches high. They have had many inspections and never had an issue. **Veronique Vendette** 259 Brunswick Ave. Would like this to pass, she would like to have some sheep, the benefits of having sheep to eat her grass instead of mowing would be better. She already has chickens that she gets the benefit of eggs from. **Chandler Johnson**- 12 Plaisted St., Goats are not stupid like sheep. The kids have a great time playing with them. Goats are far less impactful than dogs. You can throw goat's fecal matter into your garden raw. We have had our goats for 9-10 months and they have not gotten out. **Alex Rosenberg**- 259 Brunswick Ave. – Decrease in property value? I have chickens and sheep. Young families are choosing to live in cities where they can grow their own food. It's a big commitment/time/money. Hope the ordinance stays in place. **George Trask**- Libby Hill Road.- Working on this goat ordinance for 1 year. **Councilor Johnston**- so do you support the ordinance or are you against it? **George Trask**- leave it the way it is. **Hilda Whitmore**-25 Clinton St. My house is behind 12 Plaisted St. - we smell the odor, should be 4000 feet per animal. The set back should be 30 feet and it's only 28 feet. The owners are housing the goats in the cellar and they should not be, goats should not be house pets. They have the goats without a permit. They don't have room for the goats to run and play. They walk them on a dog leash, very disgusted to see this in Gardiner. **Pat Polley**- Chelsea-Raises goats- a lot of myths about goats. **Councilor Johnston**-the ordinance is for sheep/goats. **Pat Polley**- I have small sheep under 100lbs. **Councilor Johnston**- 4000 square feet enough room for 2? **Pat Polley** – not really. **Phil Barter**- 223 Brunswick Ave. Have 1 question for the Councilors. Should it be allowed in HRD? **John Burgess**- Planning Committee- on behalf of **Christine Johnson**- We need to have control of what we eat. **Councilor Pat Hart**- Thanks to you for all your hard work. **Dorothy Washburn**- 56 Water St. - My number one concern is I don't want to see anything effect the way we live here in Gardiner. This is not the best thing for Gardiner. **Bob Rapalus**- 51 Pierce St. We need to think this thru-what is right for the entire city. People move into HDR for a reason. What other animals will you allow? Why introduce more problems that we have to deal with, not in the best

interest of the city and I recommend it be killed here and now. Councilor **Pat Hart**- We need to think about the livability in Gardiner.

Mayor Harnett- how would the council like to proceed? **Councilor Johnston** – We had 12 residents speak, 5 in favor and 7 opposed. The most difficult thing is to manage good manners and be good neighbors. People are making more effort to take care of their own food. Many grow vegetables. Passionately in favor of people growing their own food; Passionate about the trains coming back; Concerned about people--would like to consider further with more restrictions.

Councilor Pat Hart- Concur with **Councilor Johnston**, this is the potential to come up with a compromise. **Councilor Phil Hart**- this is a difficult situation, what is comfortable for one may not be for another. I think people need a lot more land. The complaints will be expensive to enforce--take a lot of the tax payer's money. It only takes one to spoil it for everyone. Where do we draw the line? I can't support the ordinance the way it is. **Councilor Leake**- It has been 10 months and we have not enforced it. We should have guidelines. **Councilor Williams**- the last thing I think we need in the city is farm animals. It's not fair for the animals and not fair for the neighbors. I do not support it.

Mayor Harnett- Can't support the ordinance the way it is. **Councilor Phil Hart**- We need to go by the rules. Motion made by **Councilor Johnston** to table the discussion for 2 weeks to allow gathering more information, second by **Councilor Williams**. Motion passed by a vote of 5-1, **Councilor Phil Hart** voting against.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Consideration of Appointments Wastewater Advisory Board - Ordinance Review Committee – Lisa Liberatore., Housing Committee- Joel Alexander. Motion made by Councilor Johnston to appoint new members, second by Councilor Phil Hart. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

4. Consideration of UB Commitment – Councilor Johnston; is this the commitment after the new rates, we gave some a pass do we lien now? Councilor Phil Hart; some of the bills are small, have the residents been notified? City Manager Scott Morelli: Yes and the lien fee gets passed on to the residents. Councilor Phil Hart; does the current bill list the past due amount? Scott, yes. Councilor Barron; some of the bill are under \$1.00, do we lien for those? Scott: let's hold off and have the tax collector come in or at least get more information for me to bring to Council.

5. Consideration of Waiving RFP requirement for Heart & Soul Project Coordinator Contract Councilor Johnston made a motion to waive RFP, second by Councilor Phil Hart. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

6. Presentation of Finance Report- Finance Director, Denise Brown: In line with Revenue/Expenditures. Councilor Johnston: Oil and Pellets pricing where we projected? Denise, prices and use came in lower than anticipated. Councilor Phil Hart: Good job on keeping us informed.

7. Presentation of Employee Handbook – City manager recommends council review and at the next meeting Council go into more depth.

CITY MANAGER UPDATE- Parks and Rec committee had their first meeting regarding the gazebo. We will be holding a meeting for public comment of April 2nd.

CITY COUNCIL UPDATE- Councilor Pat Hart; the parks and rec committee meeting is April 2nd, the Comprehensive Plan meeting is April 4th at 6 and the Orton dinner is Thursday at 5pm at E.J.P. I would like to have Mark Ardman (consultant for the comprehensive plan) come before council to

explain the process of the Comprehensive plan on April 3rd. Councilor Johnston: Thanks to everyone for tonight's public hearing, went very well. Thanks to Scott and Denise for the employee hand book. Councilor Barron: pass, Councilor Phil Hart: All set, Councilor Heath; had a tour of the Waste Water Treatment plant- very interesting. Councilor Williams; all set, Councilor Leake; could we look into extending the hours at City Hall? Mayor Harnett; Went to the Cohen Center with other area Mayors and helped with Meals on Wheels, working on the Mayors committee with Scott, will keep you posted.

Adjournment: 10:00

Respectfully submitted: Robin E. Plourde