

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
GARDINER CITY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2014
COUNCIL MEETING 7:00 P.M.**

ROLL CALL All Council Present

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Public Hearing on FY15 Budget

City Manager Morelli presented the budget with the council requests using \$202,200 from funds to keep the budget impact from increasing more than 1 ½% increase. Operating Budget is \$5,450,136. The City's spending is down \$84,334 from previous budget. The increase is a result of MEPERS retirement costs no longer being paid by a credit and the shift of Gardiner's ambulance enterprise account to general fund. The wastewater budget does not include a rate increase. It keeps spending flat this year, but we will be looking at increase to cover the upcoming projects. Council will be asked to approve the first reading of the budgets for general fund and enterprise accounts tonight. Councilor Heath asked about the WWTP projects and funding from Rural Development.

Bryan Blanchard, Dresden Ave, looked at the tax rates in Kennebec County and Gardiner is 39% higher than area towns. The City manager does a good job, but we do not need to use outside consultants. Wastewater has \$1mil in its account, but paying out. The donations are good but we do not need to give them money. There are programs for food available to residents. The increases in the budget categories. We should not be giving to First Park. What have gotten for it? We are not a member. We did not hold the municipal election. In Gardiner it only went to Gardiner. It would be difficult to get out and have treated ourselves as partners. See if we can get out of First Park, how about putting Libby Hill in and take advantage of the resources. Maureen Blanchard, Dresden Ave, said if you had \$50K in 2010, now you have to make \$4500 for the same buying power as 4 years ago. People can't afford increases. You need to think zero. Scott Morelli commented that Gardiner is not the highest mil rate anymore. Gardiner has held no tax increases in 3 out of 4 years. Employees are not getting \$87K in new money. It was shifted from other accounts. The benefits are not increasing, we have used up our credit and are now facing the funding for it. Councilor Johnston appreciates the public looking into the budget details, but no Councilor wants to raise taxes. Much of the work the Council does is invisible all year.

Public Hearing and Consideration of GYH Day of Play Special Events Permit

Melissa Weston, GYH would like to hold a street hockey tournament on 8/9/14. Department heads have reviewed the application. Motion from Councilor Barron, second from Councilor Williams. Unanimous Vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consideration of Minutes 4/2, 4/16, 4/30

Motion to approve by Councilor Johnston, second by Councilor Barron. Unanimous Vote

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration of License Renewal to Park Vehicles at South Gardiner Fire Station

This license allows them to use for up to 10 years during the winter months. A new owner would have to come in and have a license to park as well. This helps keep Route 24 clear for plowing. Motion to approve by Councilor Pat Hart, second by Councilor Williams. Unanimous Vote

First Reading and Consideration of Establishing FY15 Appropriations and Directing the Levy of Taxes for City Services

Motion to approve the first reading of the budget with 1 ½ increase by Councilor Johnston, second by Councilor Berry. Councilor Phil Hart thanked everyone for their comments. The City Manager and department heads

stepped up and understood the problem. If the Council wants to change policies, we need to and citizens need to get involved. Councilor Berry thanked everyone for their involvement. I don't use all the services but they are important to people in Gardiner. Mayor Harnett is not happy about raising taxes, but we have a city manager and department heads that understand. There are things that go on that people don't see—during the gazebo celebration, the City Manager was at a meeting in Dresden bringing them back to Gardiner Ambulance. Big accomplishment. The Mayor's coalition is working to get revenue sharing back. Unanimous Vote

First Reading and Consideration of Establishing FY15 Appropriations for Enterprise Accounts

Motion to approve by Councilor Barron, second by Councilor Berry. Unanimous Vote

Consideration of Revolving Loan Fund Application for Stone Turret

Nate Rudy and Lisa Liberatore, Economic Development committee, recommend giving \$50K loan to Stone Turret to make changes required by Fire Marshall and Code Enforcement. The committee consists of Lisa, Camden National Bank, Kennebec Savings, GMS, Anne Davis.

Motion to approve Loan by Councilor Berry, second by Councilor Barron. Unanimous Vote.

CITY MANAGER UPDATE

When would Council like to see Comp Plan on agenda? Councilor Hart would like to asap, but wants to allow time. It will be added to July 16 meeting.

How do Council want to proceed on Fire Chief opening? We need a fire chief but need to be honest about where we are at with applicants.

CITY COUNCIL UPDATE

Councilor Williams thought Riverfest was a lot of fun. Councilor Heath thanked everyone for the work on the budget. Councilor Phil Hart made a motion to give \$100 to each non-union employees in appreciation of work on budget. Second Councilor Barron Unanimous Vote. Councilor Pat Hart thanked the staff for the Riverfest work. Sixty-eight percent of the talent show voters were not from Gardiner. Businesses had great days. Councilor Pat Hart got a message that people listening cannot hear if Councilors do not wear their mics. Mayor Harnett said the feeling of community on Saturday at Riverfest, four ribbon cuttings and good things are happening. We need to check our emails regularly.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - per MRSA, Title 1, Chapter 13, Section 405 (6) (F) Poverty Abatement

Motion to go into Executive Session by Councilor Johnston, second by Councilor Phil Hart.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MRSA, Title 1, Chapter 13, Section 405 (6) (A) Negotiations Mutual Aid Agreement

Motion to go into Executive Session by Councilor Barron, second by Councilor Berry.

8:45pm Council went into Public session

Motion to Deny Poverty abatement by Councilor Johnston, second by Councilor Phil Hart. Unanimous Vote

8:48pm Motion to approve mutual aid agreement with town of Wiscasset, second by Councilor Berry. Unanimous vote

952 pm Motion to approve a mutual aid agreement with Northeast regarding backup services for Richmond by Councilor Barron, second by Councilor Berry. Unanimous Vote

ADJOURN

Deirdre Berglund, City Clerk