

GARDINER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, February 10, 2016
Gardiner City Hall

Mayor Thom Harnett called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Roll Call:

Mayor Thomas Harnett, Councilors Terry Berry, Scott Williams, Shawn Dolley, Phil Hart, Maureen Blanchard & Patricia Hart. Councilor Jon Ault was absent. Also present were City Manager Scott Morelli and City Clerk Lisa Gilliam.

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

Mayor Harnett opened up the meeting to public discussion. Laurie Saunders who oversees the *Oldies but Goodies Group* was present to speak to the City Council. This group for seniors started with 6 members and they are now currently up to 40 members; the Boys & Girls Club previously hosted their meetings, but the size of the group has grown so large they now meet at the Elks Club. Ms. Saunders was present to ask for any City funding that could help this local organization; she is in the process of becoming an agent for the group as a non-profit. Ms. Saunders thanked the City Council for their time and said she would like to come back to speak to the City Council again during budget discussions.

Consent Agenda:

None

New Business:

Consideration of Request from Old Fort Western for Use of City Property:

Pete Morrissey & Linda Novak, both representatives from Old Fort Western, shared the history of Old Fort Western with the City Council. They would like to host a French & Indian encampment at the Gardiner Waterfront or at the Gardiner Common during the month of August. Mayor Harnett said the application for the event would be brought back before the City Council for final approval in the coming months and he thanked Old Fort Western for bringing this event to the community.

Consideration of Appointment/Reappointment of Board & Committee Members:

Debbie King-Johnson has requested an appointment to the Housing Committee; Housing Chair Sue Crawford has recommended her appointment. Motion by Patricia Hart to approve the appointment of Debbie King-Johnson to the Housing Committee; motion 2nd by Councilor Berry. Motion carried by unanimous vote 7-0.

Consideration of Dispatching Services Contract:

Last year Police Chief James Toman and Fire Chief Al Nelson had worked to secure three quotes for dispatching services. In June, Council authorized staff to negotiate and enter into an agreement with Lincoln County, as they had come in with a proposal that reduced Gardiner's dispatching costs by several thousand dollars per year and could also lead to better service. After some back and forth negotiations, Lincoln County increased the price and now the annual savings are closer to \$1,500 and contain provisions in years two and three of the contract to increase the price. In addition, there would still need to be close to \$10,000 in start-up costs so any savings would be negated and the service would thus cost more on an annualized basis. Chief Nelson and Chief Toman were present with a recommendation for the City Council to consider. With an increase being made to the Lincoln County dispatch, both Chief Toman & Chief Nelson are in agreement that the dispatching services should remain with Augusta dispatch. A brief discussion followed. Motion by Councilor Berry to remain with the current dispatch services; motion seconded by Councilor Patricia Hart. Motion carried by unanimous vote 7-0.

Consideration of use of CDBG Administrative Fee for Food Hub Branding:

Manager Morelli introduced this item to the Council. Central Maine Meats, which received a \$100,000 CDBG Workforce Development Grant late last year, has requested that the City's 1% administration fee be used to continue to strengthen opportunities to position Gardiner as a local foods hub. Specifically other local foods organizations and businesses at this summer's Classic Car Cruise-In every Thursday between May and September at the Gardiner Waterfront. Central Maine Meats would serve their products each week and would offer space on a rotating basis to entities like the Gardiner Farmers' Market, Gardiner Food Co-op and Cafe, Lost Orchard Brewing and others in the region that are connected to the local foods movement. Joel Davis & Bill Lovely were present to review this item and answer any questions the Council may have. Mr. Davis gave a brief update on their business growth; Patrick Wright also joined in the discussion involving the proposal of serving products during the Classic Car Cruise-In as a way to promote local food businesses. A brief discussion followed. Motion by Councilor Patricia Hart to approve City funding of \$1,000 and to have Central Maine Meats match the fee; motion seconded by Councilor Berry. A brief discussion followed. Motion carried by unanimous vote 7-0.

Consideration of Special Event Permit - Mud In Your Face 5K Run, Walk, Wheelchair:

April Wood & Penny McKinney have submitted a Special Event Permit for the "Mud In Your Face 5K - Run, Walk, Wheelchair" which is scheduled for April 3, 2016. This event is a road race through Gardiner to benefit the Middle School Athletic Boosters and the Wounded Warrior Project. Ms. Wood said she had met with the Police Chief and they have designated an appropriate route for the race. Motion by Councilor Williams to approve the Special Event Permit; seconded by Councilor Patricia Hart. A brief discussion followed. Motion carried by unanimous vote 7-0.

Discussion Regarding Boys & Girls Club Funding Formula:

Manager Morelli said that as part of last year's budget process, the City Council instructed the City Manager to work with the Director of the Boys & Girls Club to come up with a mutually agreeable funding formula as several councilors expressed concern that Gardiner was paying more than other communities both on a straight dollar and per capita basis. Club Director Ingrid Stanchfield met with the Manager and discussed options. Together they have agreed on a phased-in per capita model (despite resistance from at least one of their partner communities in doing so). The other communities would see gradual increases each year over the next 10 years until they are at the same per capita rate as Gardiner. Gardiner's allocation would remain fixed during that time, as it has been for the past several years. As you know, there is no set formula currently in place nor is one required to be in order for Council to provide the club with an annual donation. As several town meetings will be held soon, they will need direction from Council as to whether this model is agreeable so that it can begin to be rolled out. Club Director Ingrid Stanchfield was present and gave a brief summary of this item. Discussion followed. Councilor Patricia Hart expressed that she was hesitant in supporting this because it is a private agency; she also commended the Boys & Girls Club for working with the City on this item. Councilor Blanchard voiced her concern with providing more funding for this non-profit organization and wanted to discuss it in further detail during budget discussions. Councilor Williams stated he was in agreement with Councilor Patricia Hart in regards to this matter. Councilor Phil Hart said he appreciated the formula that was created and would like to discuss further options in regards to the Boys and Girls Club when budget discussions begin. Mayor Harnett appreciated the effort and research by Ms. Stanchfield for this issue; he also thanked Manager Morelli for the work he did with Ms. Stanchfield on this item. Councilor Dolley thanked the Boys & Girls Club for their positive contribution to the community. Councilor Berry said the Club has more significance to Gardiner because the facility is located in our City, which makes it of more value to Gardiner. Mayor Harnett said there would be no vote on this item, that it would be brought back during budget discussions and he encouraged Ms. Stanchfield to pursue outside funding.

Consideration of Adopting Brownfields Clean-Up Grant Funds (KVCOG):

Manager Morelli has requested the Council allow the City to accept the \$100,000 brownfields cleanup grant from KVCOG and authorize him to enter into the necessary agreements to obtain this funding.

Motion by Councilor Berry to accept the \$100,000 grant; motion seconded by Councilor Patricia Hart. Discussion followed. Motion carried by unanimous vote 7-0.

Public Hearing and Second Read of Sewer Abatement Ordinance Amendment:

Mayor Harnett opened the Public Hearing, with no public comment the Mayor then closed the public hearing. Motion by Councilor Patricia Hart to approve the second read of the Sewer Abatement Ordinance Amendments and to waive any publication of the amendment to the ordinance; motion seconded by Councilor Williams. Motion carried by unanimous vote 7-0.

Consideration of Selecting 2016 Spirit of America Award Recipient:

Each year the Mayor selects the recipient of the "Spirit of America" award. Council is being asked to provide suggestions to the Mayor for the 2016 recipient. Recipient names are due by February 28, 2016. Presentation of the award should occur in April during National Volunteer Month. Mayor Harnett has requested any suggestions be mailed to him. No motions were made on this item.

Pawnbrokers License Renewal - Gardiner Trading Post:

Gardiner Trading Post has submitted their renewal application for approval. Motion by Councilor Williams to approve the Pawnbrokers License for Gardiner Trading Post; motion seconded by Councilor Berry. Motion carried by unanimous vote 7-0.

Consideration of a Liquor License for Edible Elements:

Edible Elements is a local catering business and they have made the first time request for a liquor license. Motion by Councilor Patricia Hart to approve the liquor license application for Edible Elements; motion seconded by Councilor Phil Hart. Motion carried by unanimous vote 7-0.

Consideration of City Council Meeting Minutes:

Councilor Patricia Hart made a motion to approve the minutes dated November 18, 2015, December 2, 2015 & December 16, 2015; motion seconded Councilor Williams. Motion carried 7-0.

Consideration of Appointment/Reappointment of Councilors to Various Boards, Committees and Commissions:

Manager Morelli reviewed this item with the Council. Councilor Dolley would be interested in the Brownfield Committee. Tom Reeves said a Councilor does not need an appointment to the Merrymeeting Trail Committee. Manager Morelli asked to be notified if anyone was interested in joining a board or committee. No Motion made on this item.

Meeting break at 8:00 p.m.

Meeting resumed at 8:05 p.m.

Executive Session Per 1 MRSA 405(6)(C): Consideration of Offer for 24 Summer Street & Proposed Use:

Motion by Councilor Berry to enter into executive session; motion seconded by Councilor Patricia Hart. Executive Session began at 8:06 p.m.

Executive Session Per 1 MRSA 405(6)(D): Negotiations with City Unions on Year Three Wage Re-Openers:

Executive Session Per 1 MRSA 405(6)(A) to Discuss City Manager's Annual Evaluation:

Respectfully submitted by,
Lisa Gilliam, City Clerk