

**Regular Meeting Minutes
Gardiner City Council
Wednesday, November 5, 2014
Council Meeting 6:30 P.M.**

Call to Order: Mayor Thom Harnett calls the meeting to order.

- Motion by Terry Berry to go into Executive Session Pursuant to 1 MRSA, Title 1, Chapter 13, Section 405 (6) (C) Real Estate. (6:32pm)
- Seconded by William Barron
- Unanimous vote
- Motion approved

Corresponding motion after coming out of executive session:

- Motion by Terry Berry to authorize City Manager to issue a quitclaim deed to the Bank of Maine for redemption of Property at lots 12 and 133 Highland Avenue for a payment of \$4,447.82 constituting back taxes and sewer.
- Seconded by Richard Heath
- Unanimous vote
- Motion approved

Pledge of Allegiance: Completed.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Mayor Thomas Harnett, Council Member Terry Berry, Council Member Scott Williams, Council Member Richard Heath, Council Member Phil Hart, Council Member William Barron, Council Member Robert Johnston, and Council Member Patricia Hart.

Petitions, Public Hearings:

Public Hearing and Consideration of Liquor License Renewal for Dennis' Pizza

- Motion by Robert Johnston to approve Liquor License Renewal for Dennis' Pizza.
- Seconded by Scott Williams
- Unanimous vote
- Motion approved

Consideration and First Reading of General Assistance Ordinance Amendment

- Motion by Robert Johnston to bring General Assistance Ordinance Amendment to second reading.
- Seconded by William Barron
- Unanimous Vote
- Motion approved

Public Comment

Helen Stevens of Dresden Avenue wanted to thank the council and the others involved in putting together the committee workshop. She is the chair to the Library Board and learned how to run a meeting.

New Business:

Consideration of Appointment of Interim City Clerk

- Motion by Patricia Hart to appoint Ruth Glaeser as Interim City Clerk.
- Seconded by Philip Hart
- Unanimous vote
- Motion approved

Report from the Solid Waste and Recycling Advisory Committee

In 2012 the City of Council changed the name of the Recycling Committee to the Solid Waste & Recycling Advisory Committee and charged it with looking into alternatives to Hatch Hill for solid waste disposal. After extensive research and meetings, the committee has prepared a report for the City Council and Chair Judy Dorsey will present their findings. Attached please find this report.

Councilor Richard Heath recuses himself due to his oversight of Hatch Hill in regard to the EPA.

No vote necessary

Additional Public Comment Due to Confusion of Meeting Start Time:

Consideration of Special Events Permit for Gardiner Food Co-op Event

John Ault came before the council on behalf of the Gardiner Food Co-op to ask for approval of a special event permit for an event to be held on November 15th from 6pm to 9pm at the Circling the Square Press. Alcohol (beer and wine) will be served which will be served by a certified server.

- Motion by Patricia Hart to approve a conditional Special Events Permit subject to the approval of the City Department (Public Works, Police and Fire)
- Seconded by Terry Berry
- Unanimous vote
- Motion approved

Consideration of Sale of Partridge Lot

Background –

The deadline for the RFP of the remaining city-owned lot on Partridge Drive passed without a response. After the deadline, Ron Trahan submitted a proposal (attached). Council will need to consider whether the terms of this proposal - \$2,500 – with no guarantee to build – are acceptable.

Discussion about shape in which the lot was left. The previous owners, the Dimago Brothers Partridge Drive, LLC, left the lot stripped. Mr. Trahan stated he would bring fill in to restore lot, but probably not this fall. Mr. Strahan stated it was his intention to build a house within the parameters of the RFP but had no time line in mind. Much of his decision would be based on his financial situation and the situation of the real estate market, as he would have to sell his own house next door. At the very least he would repair the lot.

- Motion by Robert Johnston to instruct City Manager to enter into negotiations with Mr. Trahan in the sale of the lot at 19 Partridge Drive with mutually agreeable terms, not to come back to Council
- Seconded by Scott Williams
- 5 votes in favor (Council Members Richard Heath, William Barron, Robert Johnston, Patricia Hart and Scott Williams)
- 3 votes opposed (Council Members Terry Berry, Phil Hart and Mayor Thom Harnett)
- Motion approved.

Consideration of Committee Appointment

- Motion by Terry Berry to reappoint Harlan Brown to the Board of Appeals and appoint Judy Dorsey to the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee
- Seconded by Patricia Hart.
- Unanimous vote.
- Motion approved.

Consideration of City Manager's Office Reorganization Proposal

Background:

As a result of the resignations of the City Clerk and Deputy Clerk, the City has an opportunity to evaluate these positions and see if savings can be identified to assist with the looming budget deficit that the City will be faced with during next year's budget process. The proposal includes the elimination of the deputy clerk position, refilling the Clerk position at a non-supervisory level and reorganizing the front office so that cross-training and front office coverage by the Economic and Planning Administrative Assistant and the Executive Assistant can be implemented.

Estimated cost savings this year of \$30,000 to be used toward office reorganization and \$40,000 in annual savings every year thereafter.

- Motion by Phil Hart to accept City Manager's reorganization Proposal with the City Manager's change from possible savings of \$46,000 to \$40,000 due to union negotiations
- Seconded by Patricia Hart.

- Unanimous vote.
- Motion approved.

City Manager Update

City Council Update

Adjourn

- Motion by Robert Johnston to adjourn
- Seconded by Phil Hart
- Unanimous vote
- Motion approved

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth S. Glaeser, Interim City Clerk