

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
GARDINER CITY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2014
COUNCIL MEETING 7:00 PM**

ROLL CALL

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

Jeff Crane asked about when the crosswalks were going to be painted. They are terrible. Public Works is still doing regular maintenance and will be getting to it asap

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion of Partridge Drive

City Manager Morelli explained that Council is being asked if revisions will make the home come into compliance. The value should be \$150K including a garage. Mike Adams plans on putting in a dormer, if approved, to come into compliance. He has been holding off on garage. Mike Adams said repainting the blue roof will not adhere long term. It would cost \$15K to redo the roof. Jim Anastasio, Partridge Drive, said this has been a project that hasn't done the work it is supposed to. It was built without building permit. He is concerned that everything done has not met the minimum stated in the P&S agreement. It does not fit the neighborhood. Councilor Berry made a motion to require Mike Adams to come to Council before any more work is done, second by Councilor Johnston. Councilor Phil Hart is concerned that we are discouraging people from building in Gardiner. Unanimous Vote.

PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing of Highland Ave Project

MDOT is planning on resurfacing from West Gardiner to Bridge Street and sidewalk construction, will also be replacing water main, as well as sewer connections using a phased approach. Phase 1 is Orchard to Autumn in the fall—the most disruptive part. Phase 2 resurfacing and curbing and Phase 3 will be a shim coat from Orchard to West Gardiner. Gas lines are in so it won't be a problem. The paving is schedule will include the school district. Tony LaPlante said we have options. Neighborhoods will be disrupted but the end result will be worth it. Christine Szigeti-Johnson, Highland Ave, said they end up with water in their cellar, can the water be drained differently? Will they be given notice if the trees have to be cleared? Yes, any plans would be made available. Matt Pettengill, Highland Ave, family runs a daycare and is concerned about loss of services. Can we re-route traffic from home use? MDOT said they will need to know who has cellar drains and sewer pumps, need to be aware of truck detours. Councilor Phil Hart is concerned that near the school district will get destroyed. The pavement goes bad. Will this be bonded? We will be borrowing the money in FY15

OLD BUSINESS

FY15 Budget

Council gave direction at the last meeting to city budgets and had to come up with savings of \$121K. city Manager requested Council to consider an increase of 3%. It would reduce nonprofits by 5%, along with cuts of \$126K. Consumer Price index has gone up 7.7% vs our tax increases only been 1.7%. Mayor Harnett thanked the City Manager and Department heads. He is comfortable with 3% and does not want to see any employee lose their job. Council Pat Hart feels the Council has not taken the time discuss services. What are the services we have and what we could change. Councilor Williams would be ok with 3%, but cannot support layoffs. He would like a workshop on services. Councilor Berry agrees that we need to talk and see why we are paying a premium compared to other towns. Mayor Harnett asked Ingrid Stanchfield, Boys & Girls Club, to explain what we pay compared to together communities. She said there is no formula of what towns pay but they haven't asked for an increase in 6 years. Councilor Phil Hart credits the City Manager for his work on the budget. We need to talk about services and figure out how what we can afford. Councilor Johnston agrees we need to start figuring out what we value. We need to put a dollar value on the values that we adopted and infrastructure. Council asked for historical data over 10 years with to compare with decrease in population. These are higher level policy change. Public was asked to comment: Terry Maschino thought a workshop is a good idea. The tax rate is too high.

Motion to have all open position come to council for approval to hire by Councilor Pat Hart, second by Councilor Williams. Chief Toman asked Council to not put on a hiring freeze on his open position. It would be an immediate increase of \$7K to OT. We could put a detective back on patrol but it would take away from public safety. It won't take long for the bad people to figure things out, not to mention how it would hurt morale. Vote: 3 in favor, 5 against. Motion fails.

PUBLIC HEARING

10 p.m Public Hearing and second reading and consideration of Proposed Changes to the Land Use Ordinance: Adaptive Reuse Overlay District

Motion to pass the second reading of AROD by Councilor Johnston, second by Councilor Barron. Unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration of Bundled Billing Rates & Increasing Ambulance Service Rates

Council discussed the ambulance advisory board. Councilor Hart would have preferred it went to select boards first. Motion to approved bundled billing rates and increasing ambulance rates by Councilor Johnston, second by Councilor Barron. Unanimous Vote.

Consideration of Amending Agreement with Gardiner Main Street (Gardiner Growth Initiative)

Motion to approve by Councilor Heath, second by Councilor Williams. This amendment delegates authority to the city manager to sign documents. Unanimous Vote.

Consideration of Accepting Picnic Table Gift from Rotary

Councilor Pat Hart said this is a project that came out of the Heart & Soul work. Motion to accept the gift by Councilor Phil Hart, second by Councilor Heath. Unanimous Vote

CITY MANAGER UPDATE Scott Morelli asked Council to look at schedules so that we can set the Council Schedule for the remainder of the year.

CITY COUNCIL UPDATE

Councilor Phil Hart thanked staff for their work on the budget. Councilor Barron thanked everyone for the help on the Memorial Day Parade. Councilor Johnston reminded everyone of the Bandstand dedication on June 14. Mayor Harnett thanked Councilor Barron for standing in during the Parade and reminded everyone of the parking lot cleanup sponsored by Alex Parker's.

ADJOURN 10:25 p.m.

Deirdre Berglund, City Clerk