

GARDINER CITY COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2009

7:00 P.M.

Boys and Girls Club of Greater Gardiner

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm

2. ROLL CALL

In attendance: Mayor Andrew MacLean, Councilor Bryan Blanchard, Councilor Richard Nickless, Councilor Chuck LeBlanc, Councilor Philip Hart, Councilor Elect George Trask, Councilor Elect Robert Johnston, Councilor Elect Kendall Holmes

Missing: Councilor Martha Mentall, Councilor Michael Giberson, Councilor Richard Rambo

3. INAUGURAL CEREMONY

3.1. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor MacLean led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3.2. Invocation

Father Jack Fles offered a prayer of hope and wisdom for all government and spoke of the tough economic climate and the challenges that the Council and City staff will be faced with.

3.3. Keynote Address by John Richardson, Commissioner of Maine Department of Economic and Community Development

Mr. Richardson spoke about his leadership role in the state and his job as the Commissioner of the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development. He said that the selection process for the River Bond Award was very demanding. He said the City's application was outstanding and the City should be proud. Mr. Richardson spoke about Gardiner having a history of being innovative and industrious and its tradition as a riverfront community. He said Mainers are industrious by nature and he thinks it is due to the cold weather. People have had to be "thinkers". He has worked closely with Gardiner in the past in the City's efforts to get grant money. The Maine Technology Institute is located in Gardiner and they provide technology and research assistance statewide. The River Bond Grant Award is \$ 495,000 and will be used to develop the riverfront area. He said this is outstanding in a time when unemployment is at an all time high. The funds will be used to put in a park area, additional lighting, signage, etc. Mr. Richardson said what the City is doing will enhance the community, will add positively to growth and development and will entice people to come to Gardiner. The City has received \$1.9 million dollars in grant money since 2001 from the Department of Economic Development. He spoke about what a great job the City has done to revitalize Gardiner.

3.4. Certification of Council Election Results.

An election for the office of City Council was held on November 4, 2008, Kendall Homes, Robert Johnston, and George Trask the winners by a plurality vote, pursuant to 30-A M.R.S.A. {2528(10)..

Ballots were cast for the office of Mayor at an election held on November 4, 2008, it was determined that Andrew MacLean was the winner by plurality vote, pursuant to 30-A M.R.S.A. Motion to accept the Election results made by Councilor Nickless, Second by: Councilor LeBlanc, Vote: Councilor Nickless voted in the affirmative, Councilor Hart voted in the affirmative, Councilor LeBlanc voted in the affirmative, Councilor Blanchard voted in the affirmative, Mayor MacLean voted in the affirmative.

3.5. Administration of Oath of Office to Mayor and Council-elect by Deirdre Berglund, City Clerk.

Councilors Elect Trask, Holmes and Johnston and Mayor MacLean sworn in by City Clerk Deirdre Berglund.

3.6. Remarks by Mayor MacLean (See Attached)

3.7. Remarks by Councilors

Councilor Blanchard reflected on his time on the Council saying he feels lucky to have had the opportunity. He feels deep respect for the Mayor for pulling the Council together during the tough times. He thanked the City Manager for all of his efforts to meet the demands of the Council and the effort to reduce the budget. He said he would like to leave the Council with some advice which would be to educate the taxpayers as much as possible in the future as to what is going on financially. He would encourage greater transparency.

Councilor LeBlanc thanked the City Staff, the Mayor and the City manager. He said it had been difficult at times but rewarding. He thanked everyone for allowing him the educational opportunity. He encouraged everyone to get involved whether it be a committee or running for council. Councilor LeBlanc congratulated the newly elected council and said he will continue to stay on top of what is happening in Gardiner through the internet.

Councilor Holmes introduced himself and his family. He told of how he moved back to Maine from Washington, D.C. in 2001. He said he is looking forward to working with everyone on the council and thanked all for the opportunity.

Councilor Johnston said in thinking about what he wanted to say he called the City Clerk and asked her how many people voted in the election on November 4th-- 3129 voted and he thought that was outstanding and he thanked everyone who came out to vote. He looked forward to working with the council and feels it is a great opportunity. Johnston said he can't wait to get started.

Councilor Trask said he had been here before back in the 90's. He said he has had some health issues since then including a stroke. He thought it would be a cold day before he ever came back and he laughed and said "it's a cold day". He feels the council needs to work together and be diligent about spending. He also said he feels the lines of communication need to be kept open between City government and taxpayers.

Councilor Hart welcomed the new members. He said he hopes they have a lot of strength and enthusiasm because they will need it. To the outgoing council members he reiterated that it was good working with them. He acknowledged that he and Councilor LeBlanc had differing opinions quite often but he felt that Councilor LeBlanc offered a different perspective on issues. Hart told Councilor Blanchard that he would miss him the most and that he feels that Blanchard

brought a tremendous amount of wisdom to the Council. Councilor Hart said he feels that Jeff is the most honest City Manager we have had and that he works hard to give the Council everything they ask for. He thanked the Mayor for allowing discussions/debates to happen while keeping the Council together in times of disagreement.

Councilor Nickless said it had been a pleasure working with Councilors Mentall, LeBlanc and Blanchard. There were some tough challenges but he couldn't be more comfortable with the decisions they made. He thanked the Mayor and City staff. He jokingly said he would like to have more meetings at the Boys and Girls Club so he could walk.

3.8. Mayor MacLean recesses for refreshments.
The Mayor recessed at 8:00pm for refreshments.

At 8:20 pm the meeting reconvened.

4. PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, RESOLUTIONS, & PUBLIC HEARINGS

4.1. Consideration of Comments from the Public on Issues that Do Not Appear Elsewhere on the Agenda (Please limit comments to five minutes.)
No members of the public had comments.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

5.1. Consideration of Correcting November 5, 2008 Council Minutes

The City Manager explained that the minutes from the meeting of November 5, 2008 had to be corrected to include the action from the Executive Session which was the decision to move forward with legal action on the Wlodylo issue.

Motion to accept the corrected minutes was made by Councilor Nickless, Second by Councilor Hart, Vote: Councilor Nickless voted in the affirmative, Councilor Hart voted in the affirmative, Councilor Trask voted in the affirmative, Mayor MacLean voted in the affirmative. Councilor Johnston and Councilor Holmes abstained from the vote.

5.2. Consideration of Mayoral Appointment

Motion to approve Ronald Condon for the Planning Board made by Councilor Hart, Second by Councilor Trask, Vote: Councilor Trask in the affirmative, Councilor Hart in the affirmative, Councilor Johnston in the affirmative, Councilor Holmes in the affirmative, Councilor Nickless in the affirmative, Mayor MacLean in the affirmative.

5.3. Consideration of Renewal of Pawn Shop Application for Gardiner Trading Post and Pawn Shop.

Councilor Trask asked if there was a city ordinance which would prohibit more than one pawn shop in operation at a time. Jeff said he was not aware of any. Trask said he thinks there may have been one at one time and that he feels there is a market for more than one.

Motion to renew the pawn shop license was made by Councilor Johnston, Second by Councilor Holmes, Vote: Councilor Nickless voted in the affirmative, Councilor Hart voted in the affirmative, Councilor Trask voted in the affirmative, Councilor Johnston voted in the affirmative, Councilor Holmes voted in the affirmative, Mayor MacLean voted in the affirmative.

5.4. Consideration of Councilor Nickless signing December 2008 Warrants

Motion to approve Councilor Nickless to sign the December warrants made by Councilor Hart , Second by Councilor Trask, Vote: Councilor Johnston voted in the affirmative, Councilor Holmes voted in the affirmative, Councilor Hart voted in the affirmative, Councilor Trask voted in the affirmative, Councilor Nickless voted in the affirmative, Mayor MacLean voted in the affirmative.

5.5. Consideration of December 2008 Warrants

Motion to accept the December 2008 warrants made by Councilor Johnston, Second by Councilor Nickless, Vote: Councilor Hart voted in the affirmative, Councilor Trask voted in the affirmative, Councilor Johnston voted in the affirmative, Councilor Holmes voted in the affirmative, Councilor Nickless voted in the affirmative, Mayor MacLean voted in the affirmative.

6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further new business the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Cutler
Council Clerk