

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA  
GARDINER CITY COUNCIL  
Wednesday, February 8, 2012  
Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL-Councilor Leake Absent

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, RESOLUTIONS, & PUBLIC HEARINGS

1 Public Comment not on the Agenda- Jim Keenan. Merchants and citizens that are interested in displaying flags up along Brunswick Ave. Flag kit includes, flag-pole-bracket for \$49.95. The flags will go from Northern Ave-along Bridge St.-out 201 past Ainslie's market. They will be no cost to the City. Councilor Johnston would like to know the life expectancy of the flags. Jim Keenan- 2 years, they will be taken down in the winter. Councilor Holmes would like to know who will be putting them up and taking them down— Jim Keenan, Fire Chief Minkowsky has said that some of his men will help with project. Councilor Harnett says it is important to let people know they can give less than the purchase price of \$49.95.

OLD BUSINESS

2 Consideration of Waste Water Rate Implementation

Councilor Harnett comfortable with the rate change. Councilor Holmes says we should have one bill for sewer and water combined. Makes the most sense, less confusing. City Manager, Scott Morelli says that the city will be educating on rate increase and outside meters. Councilor Phil Hart would like to know when the interest will start. City manager Scott Morelli says that interest will start after one year and liens will start after 18 months. Councilor Johnston would like to thank Scott and Chuck for the hard work and research put into this project. Resident Rusty Greenleaf would like to know when this rate increase will start. WW Director Chuck Applebee says the rate change will take effect November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012. Motion made by Councilor Holmes to accept the \$87.00 flat rate fee plus the \$10.00 after 100 cf and to educate residents. Second by Councilor Pat Hart.

Discussion of PACE Program - Efficiency Maine- Allows residents to take advantage of low interest loans for home improvements. Councilor Pat Hart would like to know what the interest rate is. City manager, not sure but will find out. Pace discussion put on Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> agenda.

4 Discussion of Special Events Ordinance- Councilor Harnett would like to know if the City's Attorney is comfortable with a "Blanket Statement". City Manager, Scott Morelli, spoke with Legal Counsel and got the go-ahead to proceed. Councilor Johnston would like to have city staff approve minor events , ie: Weddings on the Common, Legion requests, etc...

5 Discussion of Regional Recycling – Judy Dorsey, Gardiner Rep. for recycling committee presented council with presentation to City of Augusta regarding Hatch Hill fees and recycling plan. City Manager, Scott Morelli will craft a letter to the City of Augusta from the Mayor with questions.

6 Discussion of FY 12 Goals Councilor Johnston: What will become of the old buildings in Gardiner, the city needs to look into the future on space needs. The City building is need of updates, server needs protection, and we should look at archiving material. Councilor Harnett: Are our elderly safe? We need to get our youth involved with the elderly. We need to get people from Libby Hill Business Park downtown. Councilor Pat Hart: Concerned about the sidewalks, the empty houses and is there a way we could help people who buy the houses fix them up. Mayor Maclean: Housing and tax credits. Councilor Holmes: Would like to see a committee that deals with the trash and the recycling, Housing committee formed, WW treatment plant consider a pellet boiler, and keep the tax rate stable. Councilor Phil Hart: Our Services cost to much, would like to see all department heads re-structure and think outside the box. Get together with the school and other towns to discuss budget. Councilor Williams: We need a plan for Libby Hill

Business Park. Would like to see more entertainment in town, a campground, a public beach and see if we could do something with the train station. Councilor Johnston: Invest in housing, the Pace program will help. Mayor Andy Maclean: The city has no place for single / couples who don't want a single family house. Maintain what we have: Cobbossee Corridor, the water front, and the common. Councilor Pat Hart: We have no where to swim, we need more for families to do, and we need to go to the school board regarding budget.

CITY MANAGER UPDATE- Checking into having a camera in the Council Room. West St. Project has a completion date of June 7<sup>th</sup>.

CITY COUNCIL UPDATE- Councilor Pat Hart: \$99.00 gift certificates being offered by Gardiner Main Street for Valentines day. Councilor Johnston: Pass. Councilor Holmes: Pass. Councilor Phil Hart: Pass. Councilor Harnett: Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> Sexual Harassment training council should be involved. Spoke with Chad Kempton regarding getting kids involved in community. Councilor Williams: Pass

ADJOURNMENT 10:00

Respectfully submitted:

Robin E. Plourde