



GARDINER CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET



Meeting Date		Department	
Agenda Item			
Est. Cost			

Background Information

Requested Action	
City Manager and/or Finance Review	
Council Vote/ Action Taken	
Departmental Follow-Up	

<i>City Clerk Use Only</i>	1 st Reading _____	Advertised _____	EFFECTIVE DATE _____
	2 nd Reading _____	Advertised _____ w/in 15 Days	
	Final to Dept _____	Updated Book _____	Online _____



**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
GARDINER CITY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2024**

1. ROLL CALL / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

City Council Present: Mayor Hart, Councilor Brown, Councilor Greenleaf, Councilor Cusick, Councilor Kimball, Councilor Babcock, Councilor Dolley.

City Council Absent: Councilor Grant.

City Employees Present: Denise Brown- Finance Director, Alyssa Jones – Deputy Tax Collector, John Cameron-Public Works director, Melissa Lindley- Economic Development Director, Rick Sieberg – Fire Chief.

Others present: Tom Farmer, Robert Abbey, Alex Smith, Mark Cone, Paula Bourque, Katherine Kollman- Veit, Rachel Waterbury & Family, Greg Murphy,

2. PUBLIC COMMENT (anything not on the agenda)

Alex Smith-McDonald lives in Gardiner and is the owner of Pistol and Page and wanted to share the perspective of what is going on down on Water Street. Their goal is to communicate better as business owners and consolidate their input, to offer a voice for downtown. This is on the heels coming from a year with floods, bridge closures and sales being down. The business owners are going to meet in February and work for a way to communicate better Council as a group to make progress.

3. PETITIONS / PUBLIC HEARINGS PETITIONS / PUBLIC HEARINGS

a) N/A

4. NEW BUSINESS:

a) Mayoral Proclamation –

Action: Councilor Dolley moved to accept the Mayoral proclamation for Wreaths Across America and make December 14th, 2024, Wreaths Across America day in the City of Gardiner. Councilor Babcock seconded the motion. No further discussion. Unanimously approved.

b) Mayoral Proclamation –

Action: Councilor Dolley moved to accept the Mayoral proclamation Honoring Rachel Waterbury & Ampersand Academy of Dance and Performing Arts and make December 14th, 2024, Rachel Waterbury & Ampersand Academy of Dance and Preforming Arts day in the City of Gardiner. Councilor Kimball seconded the motion. No further discussion. Unanimously approved.

- c) Presentation of the Final Dearborn Park Design from Tom Farmer
Tom Farmer, a Landscape Architect for the Dearborn Park Project, presented the before and after plans to the council. Melissa Lindley also talked with the council about how their support and approval of these plans was warranted for her to move forward on the grant. After the presentation, there were multiple members of the Public, Council members, and City Parks Committee that spoke on the topic of the park. The conversation centered particularly around an Ash tree, in the brick section of the park. After several opinions were offered, a motion was made.
Action: Councilor Brown moved to accept the concept that has been provided for the Dearborn Park project, in addition, an Arborist will be consulted for a professional opinion of the trees. Once the Arborist report is available, the committee will work out the details. Councilor Kimball seconded the motion. No further discussion. Unanimously approved.
- d) Consideration of road name change from Hume Lane to Smalls Lane.
Action: Councilor Cusick moved to approve the road name change from Hume Lane to Smalls Lane. Councilor Babcock seconded the motion. No further discussion. Unanimously approved.
- e) Consideration of consent to spend the balance of the EMS Stabilization Grant proceeds in the amount of \$121,375 and \$108,625 of Ambulance Funds to Re-chassis Rescue 2 for a total cost of \$230,000
Action: Councilor Greenleaf moved to approve to spend the balance of the EMS Stabilization Grant proceeds in the amount of \$121,375 and \$108,625 of Ambulance Funds to re-chassis Rescue 2 for a total cost of \$230,000. Councilor Dolley seconded the motion. No further discussion. Unanimously approved.
- f) Consideration of consent to return the Ambulance/Fire wage and benefit split back to 80/20 from the current 65/35, over a 5-Year period.
Action: Councilor Brown moved to approve to return the Ambulance/Fire wage and benefit split back to 80/20 from the current 65/35, over a 5-Year period. Councilor Greenleaf seconded the motion. No further discussion. Unanimously approved.
- g) Approval of the City Council meeting minutes from November 19, 2024, and November 20, 2024.
Action: Councilor Babcock moved to approve the City Council meeting minutes from November 19, 2024 & November 20, 2024. Councilor Cusick seconded the motion. No further discussion. Unanimously approved.
- h) Approval of the regular meeting dates for 2025 for the Gardiner City Council
Action: Councilor Greenleaf moved to approve the regular meeting dates for 2025 for the Gardiner City Council. Councilor Kimball seconded the motion. No further discussion. Unanimously approved.

- i) Consideration to establish the Climate Vulnerability Committee and Appointments
Action: Councilor Brown moved to Establish the Climate Vulnerability Committee. Councilor Babcock seconded the motion. No Further discussion. Unanimously approved. Action: Councilor Cusick moved to appoint the following members listed below and Councilor Brown and Councilor Babcock to the Climate Vulnerability Committee. Councilor Kimball seconded the motion. No further discussion. Unanimously approved. Members: Melissa Lindley, John Cameron, Andrew love, Alex Smith McDonald, Marc Cone, Tamara Whitmore, and Carrie Arsenault.

5. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS – N/A

6. INTERIM CITY MANAGER REPORT- **City Hall will be closing at noon on Tuesday December 24, 2024, and Tuesday December 31, 2024, for staff to enjoy the holiday. Front office staff will be using their accrued time.**

7. COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE UPDATES

Mayor Hart: *Gardiner has a busy weekend starting with the Art Walk on Friday. The Coda Chorus is doing their annual performance on Friday at Johnson Hall. Other exciting events in Gardiner include the Johnson Hall Festival of Trees and the Parade of Lights. Mayor Hart offered many thanks to the Solid Waste and Recycling Committee for their work on the website. Downtown looks great with the new Banners and the lights. Mayor Hart said that a resident contacted her about the dog park needing to be cleaned and the trash to be emptied. John Cameron reported that he checked on that and it was done yesterday. There will be a public meeting on Monday at the Library at 6pm for those that want the opportunity to meet and chat with Bob Peabody, the potential City Manager Candidate. Council will have an Executive Session on December 10th. The next City Council meeting will be held on December 18th.*

Councilor Brown: *The parade line- up is set, and it has been amazing to work with all the staff and volunteers. This year's parade will have 50 entries! Solid waste and Recycling Committee has been working quite consistently on the web page for the new City website. The Committee feels they have completed their changes and will have Melissa Lindley complete the final steps.*

Councilor Greenleaf: *A fellow constituent has sent pictures of the storm drain on the corner of Dresden and School street. The photos show that the storm drain is set higher than the road and is creating a large puddle of water. Hopefully, this can be fixed next spring. Also, wanted to thank the City staff and Public Works for all the decorations around town. Lastly, Rotary will be selling Christmas trees again this year in the Hannaford parking lot.*

Councilor Cusick: *As a member of the Solid Waste Committee, I just wanted to thank Councilor Brown for the work on the website, she has done a fabulous job.*

Councilor Kimball: *Thank you, Councilor Brown, for all the work you're doing with the parade. Rotary has a float this year and is also celebrating the 100th anniversary of Rotary. The Festival of Trees is happening now at Johnson Hall. Gardiner will definitely have a very busy weekend.*

Councilor Babcock: *Thanks to all the City Staff for getting the decorations up for the holidays. The City looks beautiful.*

Councilor Dolley: *Happy Holidays to all*

Councilor Grant: *Absent*

8. ADJOURN

Action: Councilor Cusick moved to adjourn the meeting at 7: 36pm. Councilor Greenleaf seconded the motion. No further discussion. Unanimously approved.

Proposed 2025 Meeting Regular Council Meetings

January 8, 2025
January 15, 2025
February 5, 2025
February 19, 2025
March 5, 2025
March 19, 2025
April 2, 2025
April 16, 2025
May 7, 2025
May 21, 2025
June 4, 2025
June 18, 2025
July 2, 2025
July 16, 2025
August 6, 2025
August 20, 2025
September 3, 2025
September 17, 2025
October 1, 2025
October 15, 2025
November 5, 2025
November 19, 2025
December 3, 2025
December 17, 2025