

PUBLIC HEARING – OCTOBER 17, 2011

Mayor Grenier opened the duly advertised public hearing to order at approximately 7:50 pm to hear public comments on the following subject matters:

- Ordinance 2011-09 Removing Play Streets – no comments
- Resolution 2011-33 Revising the Speed Limit Map to reflect Urban Compact limits. – no comments

There being no one wishing to speak for or against the subject matters, Mayor Grenier declared the public hearing closed at approximately 7:51 pm.

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2011

Mayor Grenier called the regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:51 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall. The pledge of allegiance to the flag preceded roll call. Present: Councilors Remillard, Otis, McCue, Ducharme, Evans, Rozek, Nelson and Theberge. Also present: City Manager MacQueen, Pam Laflamme, Corinne Cascadden, citizens and the press.

Minutes, Previous Meetings

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to accept the minutes of the October 3 Work Session and Regular Meeting and October 10 Special Meeting. So moved, the motion carried.

Disbursements: It was recommended by the Committee on Accounts/Claims to pay all bills dated 10/06/2011–10/19/2011 for a total cash disbursement of \$1,715,067.44 Draft #1651. Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to accept the disbursement summary and pay all bills as recommended by the Committee on Accounts/Claims. So moved, the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Corinne Cascadden, 1787 Hutchins Street, School Superintendent said the schools have been working on two projects with the Police Department. One is the Truancy Project which would make parents accountable for their children skipping school and parents would be fined for a violation. The second project is a better Intruder Alert program for first and second graders. There will be a Debriefing Session at the Berlin Junior High School Auditorium on Wednesday, October 19 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. to review the data gathered during the six community forums recently held to discuss the future of public education in the Androscoggin Valley. The meetings have gone well and a straw poll has shown the same sentiments. They also have a joint Milan-Dummer meeting who have an area agreement because they have students who go to Berlin High School. Every five years they have to revisit the agreement to ready that to put something on the ballot. The schools made Two Hundred Dollars from their surplus furniture sale. The schools finished state testing for grades 3-11 where they fed the kids and raffled prizes to encourage students to do well. There is much at stake on that testing. They unfortunately have to wait until January or February for the results.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Council Committee Reports – No Reports
2. Ordinance 2011-09 amending the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 15, Traffic & Vehicles, Article I. in general by deleting Sec. 15-7. Play Streets in its entirety (tabled 10/03/11)

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Berlin, as follows: The Code of Ordinances, Chapter 15, Traffic and Vehicles, Article I. In General is hereby amended by deleting in its entirety Sec. 15-7. Play Streets.

~~Sec. 15-7. Play streets.~~

~~Whenever authorized signs are erected indicating any street or part thereof as a play street, no person shall drive a vehicle upon any such street or portion thereof except drivers of vehicles having business or whose residences are within such closed area, and then any such driver shall exercise the greatest care in driving upon any said street or portion thereof.~~

~~Emery Street adjacent to the Berlin Regional Catholic School from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. while school is in session Emery Street — only on Emery Street, from a point where it intersects Blanchard Street, heading southerly on both sides to the intersection of Willow Street. This no parking zone is to also extend to the southerly side of Blanchard Street where it intersects Emery, for a distance of approximately twenty (20) feet in a westerly direction from this corner. This area shall be blocked off by school personnel during the above stated time to permit the described portion of Emery Street to be used as a play street.—This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after passage.~~

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to remove the ordinance from the table at this time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to have the ordinance read a second time by title only. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to have the ordinance read a third time by title only. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to pass the ordinance. So moved, the motion carried and Mayor Grenier declared the ordinance now passed.

3. Resolution 2011-33 amending the City of Berlin's speed limit map, pursuant to the City of Berlin's Code of Ordinances Sec. 15-41, to reflect the limits of the urban compact on the Official Speed Limit Map (tabled 10/03/2011) Resolved by the City Council of the City of Berlin as Follows:

Whereas the City has authority over speed limits within its boundaries; and
Whereas, there is a need to show the urban compact on the Official Speed Limit Map; and
Whereas, pursuant to the City of Berlin's Code of Ordinances Sec. 15-41 the City of Berlin Official Speed Limit Map is amended by resolution. Now therefore, be it resolved that the City Council of the City of Berlin hereby amends the City of Berlin's Official Speed Limit Map, pursuant to the City of Berlin's Code of Ordinances Sec. 15-41, by reflecting the limits of the urban compact on the map. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after passage

Councilor Nelson moved with a second by Councilor Evans to remove the resolution from the table at this time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Nelson moved with a second by Councilor Evans to have the resolution read a second time by title only. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Nelson moved with a second by Councilor Evans to have the resolution read a third time by title only. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Nelson moved with a second by Councilor Evans to pass the resolution. So moved, the motion carried and Mayor Grenier declared the resolution now passed.

NEW BUSINESS

4. Resolution 2011-35 increasing the Berlin Police Department's "Operation Safe Commute Grant" budget appropriation (30-420-602-0015) for Fiscal Year 2012 by Four Thousand, Two Hundred Thirty Dollars (\$4,230.00), due to additional grant revenues awarded by the NH Highway Safety Agency. (1st read)

Councilor McCue moved with a second by Councilor Nelson to table the resolution and schedule a public hearing on November 7. So moved, the motion carried.

Mayor Grenier asked the City Manager to make sure someone from the Police Department is here on November 7 to provide an overview to the Council.

5. City Manager Report

Burgess Biopower Groundbreaking

The Berlin Biopower Groundbreaking hosted by Mayor Grenier turned out to be quite an event with several hundred people attending including Governor Lynch, DRED Commissioner George Bald and PSNH CEO Gary Long. John Halle, Alex Ritchie and Chuck Grecco from Cate Street Capital also attended.

Over this past weekend NHPR had a piece which was talking about the fact that an aircraft parts manufacturer is seriously looking at also locating on the site. This company makes composite fuselage parts for airplanes. Attached is the complete piece from the NHPR web site which Councilor Nelson provided. Hopefully, all of this bodes well for growing and diversifying Berlin's economic base.

Demolition Bids

Attached are the bid summaries of two bids we took last week. One was for the demolition of 246 Grafton Street. The other was for 12 Cambridge. The bids were very competitive and we expect that the low bids will be awarded. Getting this kind of competitive pricing on our demolition projects is great because it extends what we can do with our limited demolition budget.

Dedication of Kelley Park

Attached is a flier giving notice of the dedication of the little park next to the Library which was donated by Mark and Barry Kelley and family to the City in memory of their parents Emmet J. and Evelyn B. Collins Kelley. The dedication will be held at 1pm on Friday October 21st at the Park next to the Library.

AVH in Top 100

Attached is a press release from AVH which indicates that it was named one of the top 100 Critical Access Hospitals in the United States by the National Rural Health Association. This speaks to the quality of the local health care asset which AVH represents to Berlin and the area.

Mike Perreault

Mike Perreault has been recovering amazingly well from this major surgery several weeks ago. He has been in to see us all and is doing a little work from home. He had a setback last week as a result of a blood clot in his leg from the inactivity, but they seem to be getting that under control also. He probably has another week or so before the doctors will let him come back into the office on a regular basis.

PTAP Seminar

The NH Procurement Technical Assistance Program, a Division of DRED, will be putting on a free seminar on Thursday October 13th, 2011 at the WMCC from 9am to noon. The seminar is free to any business or prospective business which might have an interest in becoming a subcontractor to a contractor to the Federal Government. The flier for that is attached.

State Prison Letter of Compliance

Some months ago we received a copy of a letter of deficiency from the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) to the State Prison in Berlin regarding its air emissions. Attached is a letter of compliance which presumably indicates that the Prison has corrected the deficiency and is now in compliance.

PWD Monthly Report. Attached.

Councilor Rozek stated that two weeks ago he spoke about the paving of Rt 16 by the Community College where the undercut still exists. The City Manager got back to him about it the next day. It is now October 17 and still nothing has been done to resolve the matter. Councilor Rozek's concern is with the asphalt plant closing soon. It is a safety hazard and should be a priority issue in the city to pave and make the road level with the existing pavement.

Mayor Grenier asked the City Manager to call Roland Viens at the Water Works to do something now and to email Council after that conversation to keep them posted. The City Manager agreed to do so.

Councilor McCue spoke about 12 Cambridge Street that is slated to be demolished and his concern is the narrow space between 6 Cambridge Street with the 12 Cambridge Street property. 6 Cambridge Street is currently occupied and it would be helpful to let folks know when the demolition will begin.

Councilor Remillard in looking at the Demolition bid for 12 Cambridge Street was curious that the bid from Bethel Maine was almost half the price of the other bids and asked the City Manager if we have ever worked with them. She added it is nice to hire local but these bids are amazing.

The City Manager replied we have to take the low bidder and so far they have not had problems.

Councilor Nelson asked where the School wrap-up meeting will be held and what time. Corinne Cascadden replied the meeting will be Wednesday October 19 at 7:00 pm at the Berlin Junior High School.

Councilor McCue moved with a second by Councilor Otis to accept/file the City Manager's Report. So moved, the motion carried

6. Mayor's Report

Planning Board Appointment: Martha Creegan as a regular member for a term to expire April 2013. Councilor McCue moved with a second by Councilor Otis to accept the Mayor's nomination of Martha Creegan as a regular member for a term to expire April 2013. So moved, the motion carried.

Mayor Grenier recently did a site visit to a group of homes on First Avenue where Mink Street joins First Avenue. He got a letter from Jackie Boucher about water problems in that area. The water continues to run in the road and she asked the City to look at this. The Mayor would like the City Manager to look at that area. Mayor Grenier said he walked the site and does not know about the cuttings on the land past that area that maybe affected the water but it is pretty significant. We should look at this when Mike Perreault gets back to work. The City Manager said he went there last year but is not sure if the City should have direct involvement. Mayor Grenier said if we need an engineer to see what the remediation is, we could do that. It will be a driving hazard this winter and it needs to be addressed.

Councilor McCue moved with a second by Councilor Otis to accept/file the Mayor's Report. So moved, the motion carried.

7. Public Comments – No comments

8. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor McCue questioned if Council will meet on Monday October 31st since it is the fifth Monday of the Month. Mayor Grenier hopes not. Councilor McCue went on to say that it was a great presentation on RiverFire which is now quite the event. He wants to mention that at one time it was handled by the City and he thanked Laura Viger, Pat MacQueen and others. It is nice to see how it has evolved. On another matter, he saw on the City Manager Report about the NHPR news about a Maine aircraft manufacturer who was interested in coming to Berlin. He was pleased to see potentials for jobs and it is great to see they are making strides.

Councilor Evans attended the Burgess Biopower Groundbreaking and said it was great to see so many people from Concord. He was impressed with the many people working on the project. He thanked the Mayor for doing such a good job representing the City of Berlin and thought it was impressive when the Mayor thanked all Councilors for going through the difficult process. Councilor Evans admitted that he went through a period of skepticism about the project primarily because he did not want to spend taxpayer money on lawyers. Thanks to the democratic process, he did not get his way because he said he was wrong about it.

Mayor Grenier thanked Councilor Evans for being dignified and making that statement.

Mayor Grenier is unable to attend the Library Park dedication on Friday October 21 and asked Councilor Ducharme to attend in his place. The Ward Two Councilor agreed.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before Council at this time, Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Nelson to adjourn the Regular City Council Meeting. So moved, the motion carried and Mayor Grenier declared the Regular Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:24 p.m.

A True Record, Attest:
Debra A. Patrick, CMC
City Clerk