

PUBLIC HEARING
December 19, 2011

Mayor Grenier opened the duly advertised public hearing at approximately 7:30 p.m. to receive public opinion regarding the following subject matters:

- Resolution 2011-41 Re-Allocating Segregated Funds for Salt Shed – No Comments
- Resolution 2011-42 Appropriating School Grants – No Comments

There being no one wishing to speak for or against the subject matters at this time, Mayor Grenier declared the Public Hearing portion of the meeting closed at approximately 7:31 p.m.

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2011

Mayor Grenier called the regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:31 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 Th  berge. Also present: Pat MacQueen, Councilor-Elect Denise Morgan Allain, Corinne Cascadden, press and public.

Minutes, Previous Meeting

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to accept the minutes of the December 5 Work Session/Meeting and the December 12 Work Session. So moved, the motion carried.

Disbursements: It was recommended by the Committee on Accounts/Claims to pay all bills start date 12/08/2011; end date 12/21/2011 for a total cash disbursement of \$1,257,536.34 Draft #1655 Councilor Nelson moved with a second by Councilor Theberge 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, School Superintendent, reported that BHS had a frozen pipe which caused damage to a ceiling and they filed a claim. They called Honeywell for service and the students were dismissed at 10:30. The repair lasted approximately one hour and the Fire Department was a big help. Ms. Cascadden informed Council that the School Board will begin their budget process Thursday, January 5.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Council Committee Reports. No Reports.
2. Resolution 2011-41 transferring \$128,317.22 of funds from a number of capital and segregated fund accounts in the current year FY 12 General fund budget to the Salt/Sand Storage shed Account. (tabled 12/05/2011)

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor McCue to remove the resolution from the table at this time. There were no votes so the motion failed and the resolution remains on table.
3. Resolution 2011-42 amending the 2011-12 Budget by revising Fund 10, School Department Federal Programs and Appropriating Six Hundred One Thousand, Two Hundred Twenty-Two Dollars and Two Cents (\$601,222.02) of Additional Grant Funds to Reflect the Changes in the following table. (tabled 12/05/2011)

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Berlin as Follows

Account Number	Account Description	Budget	Revised	Difference
10-474-530-0000	SAFE ROUTES - POSTAGE ELEM		\$4.60	
10-474-600-0000	SAFE ROUTES - SUPPLIES/MATERIALS		\$837.33	
10-474-650-0000	SAFE ROUTES - BOOK & INFO RES		\$375.31	
10-474-700-0000	SAFE ROUTES EQUIP/FURN		\$330.00	
10-321-300-0000	REV - SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL	\$0.00	\$1,547.24	\$1,547.24
10-481-200-0000	ERRP - BEN HEALTH INS DISTR		\$119,936.58	
10-381-239-0000	REV - ERRP	\$0.00	\$119,936.58	\$119,936.58
10-448-100-0000	INVENTING THE FUTURE SALARIES		\$7,000.00	
10-448-200-0000	INVENTING THE FUTURE BEN FICA		\$536.00	
10-448-700-0000	INVENTING THE FUTURE TRAVEL		\$2,014.00	
10-448-600-0000	INVENTING THE FUTURE SUPPLIES		\$230.00	
10-448-900-0000	INVENTING THE FUTURE INDIRECT COST		\$220.00	
10-304-0000-0001	REV - INVENTING THE FUTURE	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
	SCHOOL FEDERAL PROJECTS:			
10-405-241-0000	SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GRANT (SINI)	\$34,476.00	\$175,000.00	\$140,524.00
10-491-100-0000	ED JOBS SALARIES TEACHERS		\$211,167.57	
10-491-200-0000	ED JOBS BEN FICA TEACHERS		\$23,799.55	
10-491-201-0000	ED JOBS BEN RETIREMENT TEACHERS		\$14,972.58	
10-386-300-0000	REV - ED JOBS	\$0.00	\$249,939.70	\$249,939.70
10-459-100-0000	21ST CENTURY - SALARIES		\$159,815.20	
10-459-200-0000	21ST CENTURY FICA/BENEFITS		\$29,873.99	
10-459-300-0000	21ST CENTURY CONTRACTED SVCS		\$1,500.00	
10-459-500-0000	21ST CENTURY INSURANCE		\$554.49	
10-459-500-0000	21ST CENTURY PROF DEV		\$500.00	
10-459-600-0000	21ST CENTURY SUPPLIES		\$1,200.00	
10-459-700-0000	21ST CENTURY TRANS		\$3,232.58	
10-306-239-0000	REV - 21ST CENTURY GRANT	\$182,920.00	\$196,676.26	\$13,756.26
10-463-500-0000	SCHOOL VOCATIONAL PROJ (PERKINS) TRAVEL/PROF DEV		\$2,000.00	
10-463-600-0000	SCHOOL VOCATIONAL PROJ (PERKINS) BOOKS & INFO RES		\$4,000.24	
10-463-600-0000	SCHOOL VOCATIONAL PROJ (PERKINS) SOFTWARE		\$6,075.00	
10-463-700-0000	SCHOOL VOCATIONAL PROJ (PERKINS) SOFTWARE		\$50,168.00	
10-463-800-0000	SCHOOL VOCATIONAL PROJ (PERKINS) DUES/FEES		\$3,275.00	
10-347-301-0025	REV - SCHOOL VOCATIONAL PROJ (PERKINS)	\$0.00	\$65,518.24	\$65,518.24
	TOTAL	\$217,396.00	\$818,618.02	\$601,222.02

This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after passage.

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

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

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

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to pass the resolution. So moved, Mayor Grenier declared the resolution now passed.

NEW BUSINESS

- Resolution 2012-01 authorizing the Berlin Police Commission to apply for and accept funds from the NH Department of Safety for the State Homeland Security Grant Intelligence Liaison Officer (ILO) Program and appropriating the sum of Forty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$45,000) to the Berlin Police Department FY'12 Budget for the purpose of effectuating the grant. (1st read)

Councilor Nelson moved with a second by Councilor Otis to table the resolution at this time and to schedule a public hearing on January 2, 2012. So moved, the motion carried.

- Resolution 2012-02 carrying over Sixteen Thousand, Five Hundred Sixty-One Dollars and Five Cents (\$16,561.05) of Police Department Grant Funds from the year ended June 30, 2011 which are not yet expended to Fiscal Year 2012. (1st read)

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to table the resolution and schedule a public hearing on January 2, 2012. So moved, the motion carried.

6. Resolution 2012-03 authorizing an application to the Community Development Finance Authority for a Community Development Block Grant for the sum of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) to continue the Berlin Neighborhood Revitalization Program and provide funding for handicap accessibility at the Holiday Center. (1st read)

Mayor Grenier asked Housing Coordinator Linda White if we need to renew the Housing and Income Survey. Linda replied she thinks we can use the existing one but will look into it further. Mayor Grenier reminded Linda that the administrator of the grant will need to read statements into the record for anti-displacement grant requirements.

Councilor Nelson moved with a second by Councilor Otis to table the resolution and schedule a public hearing on January 2, 2012. So moved, the motion carried.

7. City Manager's Report

CWSRF Loan

As the Council is aware, we are currently financing the WWTF improvements with a \$15M SRF Loan from the State of New Hampshire. Long term that will be converted to a USDA Rural Development \$12.805M Loan and \$1.342M grant. In addition to giving us very attractive short term financing (no principal repayment and 1% interest until complete), it also makes us eligible for the 20% state aid grant share (currently deferred) if that is funded in the future by the state in the future.

In addition the State recently received additional ARRA SRF funds which they are administering under what they are calling CWSRF funds for which our WWTF improvements are eligible. These funds will make us eligible for both the 20% state share if that gets funded again in the future as well as 30% principle forgiveness up to a maximum of \$2M. This provides us the real possibility of reducing our out-of-pocket WWTF improvement costs by as much as \$5M.

We have been waiting to submit an application for this new SRF funding. Today we received word from the state that it is not time to apply for it. We will be submitting a Resolution for this new SRF application at the first meeting in January.

AVRRDD Leachate

The District project to connect to our WWTF to treat their leachate is pretty well complete, and they should be sending leachate to our plant any day now. The District has sent us a check in the amount of \$287,500 which covers \$95,500 toward their share of our I&I efforts and \$192,000 toward their share of our aeration system upgrades in the Sewer Fund.

Demolitions

246 Grafton Street was abated and demolished last week in less than two hours but it took two days to abate the asbestos inside and out. 52 Gilbert has been abated and the sheds demolished and the old commercial office is in the process of being razed. 49 Gilbert Street is in the process of being abated with demolition scheduled for early next year.

12th and Sweden Water Main Break

There was a particularly large and destructive water main break in the 6" line at the intersection of Balsam and Sweden Street on Sunday. The line was cracked 8' on the bottom of the pipe. It caused considerable damage in the area and plugged sanitary sewer and storm drains systems with gravel and rocks. Our crews are cleaning our systems with the water jet system and our vac-all truck. We may have to use our portable boiler to thaw things so we can remove the debris from the catch basins. A few people had to be provided with temporary services and there was some additional private residence property damage. The section of Sweden Street between Balsam Street and Twelfth Street has basically been washed out from all the water and will likely be closed for the winter because it is steep and it can't be repaved and can't be properly plowed. Since there are no houses or driveways on this section of Sweden, it should not cause any great inconvenience.

Snow and Ice

It has been a strange pre-winter so far. We have had a couple of snow and ice event. December 8th was the only substantial one where we got between 3 and 6 inches of snow. With the mild weather (until today), things have not frozen and there was quite a bit of snow plow damage which our crews have been working to fix. The mild weather has helped on fuel usage with use at 1000 gallons below this time last year.

Rt 110 Preconstruction Meeting

NH DOT held a preconstruction meeting last Thursday to go over the demolition project for Route 110. The buildings on eleven parcels along the new route will be demolished by Spear Brothers from Laconia, NH. The remaining twenty buildings will be put out to bid in June as the historical and archaeological documentation has not yet been completed. Representatives from the City including both the Fire and Police Departments attended the meeting at DOT's field office which is located at 779 First Avenue in one of the homes purchased for the project. This phase of the project is expected to be completed in the spring. Bidding for the construction phase of the project is not anticipated until late 2012/early 2013.

BOP

Attached is a press release from Senator Shaheen's office relative to the start up of the BOP FCI in Berlin. The BOP is now accepting applications from local residents for positions at the facility. The Northern New Hampshire Talent Team is currently offering free job application workshops to help applicants with the process of applying for these federal jobs. Information about these workshops and specific jobs is available from the WMCC and from NHDES here in Berlin. The City Manager wished all a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Councilor McCue asked about the WWTF improvements and the final amount from the Bureau of Prisons. The City Manager said that the BOP is contributing \$8.5M and that we were using most of that for the gravity and force mains and pump station which connect the FCI while the remainder would be used on the WWTF improvements. The I&I work is being funded from the remainder of the USDA RD \$5M loan/ \$1M grant most of which was originally used for the Phase I WWTF improvements completed several years ago. Finally, we are financing the roughly \$15M in improvements to the WWTF during construction with state SRF loan and long term with a \$12.508M RD loan and \$1.342M RD grant.

Councilor Remillard asked the City Manager for an update on the Rite Aid buildings and when they will be taken down. The City Manager replied they started the process and are moving forward.

Councilor Nelson moved with a second by Councilor Evans to accept the City Manager's Report and place it on file. So moved, the motion carried.

8. Mayor's Report

Mayor Grenier informed Council that Congressman Bass had to cancel his visit to Berlin. He will reschedule in January and plans to spend the day here. Mayor Grenier will keep us informed. Mayor Grenier wished all a Happy, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He added it is a festive time to spend with family and to thank God for what we have. We are a community with an abundance of riches.

There will be no meeting on December 26. The next meeting will be on January 2, 2012.

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

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS - No comments

10. Council Comments

Councilor McCue thanked all who helped decorate Main Street for Christmas. Sylvia Poulin spearheaded the effort and many people pitched in to make it look nice. He also wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The next meeting will be on 1-2-12.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Mayor and Council, Councilor McCue moved with a second by Councilor Otis to recess the regular meeting to enter into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 II,(d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale or lease of real or personal property. Roll call resulted in unanimous affirmative votes and Mayor Grenier declared the regular meeting recessed at approximately 7:58 p.m.

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