

PUBLIC HEARING
January 16, 2012

Mayor Grenier opened the duly advertised public hearing at approximately 6:30 p.m. to receive public opinion regarding the following subject matter:

-Resolution 2012-05 Authorizing \$15,189.00 in SRF Funds for WWTF Phase II Improvements.

There being no one wishing to speak for or against the subject matter at this time, Mayor Grenier declared the Public Hearing portion of the meeting closed at approximately 6:32 p.m.

INAUGURAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY, January 16, 2012

Mayor Grenier called the Inaugural City Council Meeting to order at approximately 6:32 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium. The pledge of allegiance to the flag preceded roll call. Present: Councilors Remillard, Otis, McCue, Ducharme, Evans, Rozek, Nelson and Théberge. Also present: Pat MacQueen, Councilor-Elect Denise Morgan Allain, Peter Higbee, several citizens and the press.

Minutes, Previous Meeting

Councilor Evans moved with a second by Councilor Otis to accept the minutes of the January 2 Work Session/Meeting and the January 9 Work Session. So moved, the motion carried.

Disbursements: It was recommended by the Committee on Accounts/Claims to pay all bills start date 1/05/2012; end date 1/18/2012 for a total cash disbursement of \$1,714,531.10 Draft #1657 Councilor Nelson moved with a second by Councilor McCue to accept the disbursement summary and pay all bills as recommended by the Committee on Accounts/Claims. So moved, the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No comments

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Council Committee Reports. No Reports.
2. Resolution 2012-05R2 authorizing the application filing, accepting, borrowing, raising and appropriation and expenditure of an estimated Seventeen Million Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$17,200,000) in State Revolving Loan (SRF) Funds for Waste Water Treatment Facility Phase II Improvements, infiltration and inflow removal and collection pump station and interceptor improvements necessary to connect the new Federal prison. (tabled 1/02/2012)

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Berlin as follows:

-Whereas, Resolution 2008-02 dated January 21, 2008, authorized the filing of an application for and accepting SRF funding in the amount of Fifteen Million Dollars (\$15,000,000) for Wastewater Facility Phase II improvements and collection and pump station and interceptor improvements necessary to connect the new Federal prison, and

-Whereas, Resolution 2008-04 dated March 17, 2008, authorized the raising, appropriation and expenditure of an estimated Eleven Million Dollars (\$11,000,000) in new SRF funding Wastewater Facility Phase improvements, infiltration and inflow removal and collection pump station interceptor improvements necessary to connect the new Federal prison in addition to the approximately Four Million (\$4,000,000) in Phase I improvements already completed, and

-Whereas, the City has been successful in obtaining long-term financing for these projects through the USDA Rural Development Administration, and

-Whereas, it has been determined that the best way for the City to finance these needed wastewater improvements is to utilize \$17,200,000 in SRF loans for short-term financing during construction and to utilize the USDA RD loan for long-term financing of the projects, and

-Whereas, the City of Berlin, after thorough consideration of the nature of its water pollution issues, hereby determines that the construction of certain works generally described as wastewater Treatment Facility Phase II improvements, is desirable and in the public interest, and to that end it is necessary to apply for assistance from the State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF), and

-Whereas, the City of Berlin has examined and duly considered the provisions of RSA 486:14 and the New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules Chapter Env-Wq 500, which relate to loans from the State Revolving Loan Fund and deemed it to be in the public interest to file loan applications and to authorize other actions in connection therewith, and

-Whereas, a requirement of the SRF loan application is evidence that the Mayor and Council have approved the raising, appropriation and expenditure of funds for the project, and

-Whereas, several years have elapsed since the passage of the resolutions cited above, and it will be clearer to have the application filing, accepting, borrowing, raising and appropriating and expending authority contained in one up to date resolution. Now therefore, be it resolved that the Mayor and Council of the City of Berlin hereby rescind Resolutions #2008-02 and #2008-04 in their entirety and in lieu thereof hereby resolve as follows:

1. That the City Manager is hereby authorized on behalf of the City to file applications for and accept loans already made or to be made in accordance with New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules Chapter Env-Wq500;
2. That the City agrees to repay the loan or loans stipulated in the loan agreement;
3. That the City Manager is hereby authorized to furnish such information and to take such other action as may be necessary to enable the City to qualify for such loans or loans.
4. That the City Manager is hereby designated as the authorized representative of the Applicant for the purpose of furnishing such information, data, and documents pertaining to the City for a loan or loans as may be required; and otherwise to act as the authorized representative of the City in connection with the application and loan or loans.
5. That certified copies of this Resolution be included as part of the application to be submitted for the SRF loan.
6. That the City agrees to make provisions for assuming proper and efficient operation and maintenance of the facilities after completion of the construction thereof.
7. That the application filing, acceptance, raising and appropriation and expenditure of an estimated Seventeen Million Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$17,200,000) in financing from the State of New Hampshire Revolving Loan Fund is hereby approved to be used to design, implement and construct Waste Water Treatment Facility Phase II improvements, infiltration and inflow (I&I) removal projects and collection pump station and interceptor improvements necessary to connect the new Federal prison.
8. To the extent not otherwise stated herein, the Council hereby ratifies actions previously taken by the City pursuant to and in compliance with Resolutions 2008-02 and 2008-04. 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 accept the amendments of resolution 2012-05R2 as presented. So moved, the motion carried.

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION TO OUTGOING COUNCILORS

Mayor Grenier presented outgoing Councilor McCue an appreciation plaque for the four years he served as a City Councilor representing Ward Two. He took time to serve on the Planning Board, the AVRRDD Waste District and the Main Street Program.

Councilor McCue thanked the Mayor for the plaque. He went on to say that serving on the Council has been a rewarding experience. It was great to see where the city has gone over the years. Berlin will continue to move onward and upward. Councilor McCue congratulated "Team Berlin" and told Denise Morgan Allain to call when she needed advice. He thanked the voters and all who keep making Berlin the great city that it is.

Mayor Grenier then presented outgoing Councilor Evens with an appreciation plaque for the four years he served as a Ward Three City Councilor. The Mayor stated that he knew Councilor Evans when he was younger and he also knew his dad and family for a long time. Councilor Evans also served on BIDPA and was Chair of the Traffic and Safety Committee. While on the committee Councilor Evans rewrote many speed limit and stop signs to comply with the realities of today's life and cleaned up signs around school zones.

Councilor Evans remarked that he has lived in many places but was born and raised in Berlin. After thirty years he decided to come back. He has never looked back and it was a great decision because Berlin is the best place in world to live. It has been an honor and privilege to serve the City of Berlin.

Mayor Grenier suspects these two gentlemen will be called again to serve the city. We need solid citizens on board. Mayor Grenier said it was a great pleasure to work with these individuals who brought lots of life experiences and helped to move many issues forward. Hats off to both of them!

Adjournment of Previous Council

Councilor McCue moved with a second by Councilor Otis to adjourn the City Council Meeting of the present council. So moved, the motion carried and the meeting adjourned.

INAUGURATION CEREMONY

City Clerk, Debra Patrick, administered the Oath of Office to the following City Council Members: Mayor - Paul Grenier; Council: Ward One - Lucie Remillard and Russell Otis; Ward Two - Denise Morgan Allain and Dori Ducharme; Ward Three - Peter Higbee; Ward Four - Diana Nelson and Roland Theberge.

First Meeting of Council

At this time Mayor Grenier Introduced Executive Councilor Ray Burton, Senator John Gallus, State Representative Mark Tremblay, Chuck Henderson from Senator Shaheen's Office, Representative Gene Chandler, former House Speaker representing Congressman Bass' Office, Police Chief Morency and Pam Laflamme who is a credit to the City of Berlin and through her efforts, we see many new projects come to Berlin.

3. Roll Call

Councilors Remillard, Otis, Ducharme, Morgan Allain, Higbee, Rozek, Nelson, Theberge and Mayor Grenier all present.

NEW BUSINESS

4. Resolution 2012-06 authorizing an application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency for a Brownfields Multi-Purpose Pilot Grant for the sum of Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$400,000) to provide for the assessment and clean-up of the former Bass Shoe Industrial Site on 218 West Milan Road, Berlin, NH 03570. (1st read)

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to table the resolution at this time and to schedule a public hearing on February 6, 2012. So moved, the motion carried.

5. Mayor's Report:

Mayor Grenier remarked that this is the first time in the history of Berlin that four women took the oath of office to serve as City Councilors. The ladies were given a standing ovation at this time.

6. Public Comments: There were no public comments.

7. New Council Member Comments:

Councilor Remillard thanked everyone for their support over the last four years and looks forward to the next two years. She feels the city is going in a positive direction and will work to offer jobs, a great education, fabulous outdoor entertainment and a wonderful place for people to reside.

Councilor Otis thanked Council for initially selecting him to fill the unexpired term which allowed him to get his feet wet before running for election. He said it was a great honor to be a part of "Team Berlin" and thanked the Ward One voters for electing him. He also thanked the voters for changing the Charter and working as a unified city will be a great benefit as we go forward. He was born and raised here and his father worked at the mill when the town was known as stink town which was really the smell of money. It is great to be here to rebuild and we have a promising future in the City of Berlin.

Councilor Morgan Allain thanked those who put their confidence in her by helping her to attain this position. She will serve with honesty and integrity and, as a public official, is committed to listen to constituents even those outside of Ward Two. She thanked those who voted because it is only when we work together for the good of our city that we can move forward. She has a vision for Berlin and she believes in our people and people of all ages. She wants to provide the best possible education for our children but also knows we must be respectful of those on fixed incomes. She wants to support those who want to rebuild the economic state of our area. Councilor Morgan Allain wants to collaborate and cooperate with others who share her passion and energy for a community that believes in itself. She concluded that we are in this situation together and together we will prosper and we are here to help each other.

Councilor Ducharme thanked all for their support and gave thanks for those who got out and voted. She is proud to serve in what she thinks is the best community in the world.

Councilor Higbee said he looks forward to serving his constituents and working with everyone.

Councilor Nelson thanked the Ward Four residents for electing her. She looks forward to serving again.

Councilor Theberge was interested in the Biomass Project and ran for that reason. He thanked the people of Ward Four for voting for him.

Inaugural Address:

Mayor Grenier asked all to rise for a moment of silence in honor of all those serving in uniform. He then welcomed all for coming out to share this special evening. Tonight, we all witnessed history in the making as four very dedicated women took their oath of office. It is the first time four women have served on the Berlin City Council at one time. He thanked all the newly sworn in Councilors for their eagerness and passion to serve. He also thanked Councilor Rozek for his encouragement and unconditional support as they worked through some difficult issues. They are all gifted and their diversity will serve the City of Berlin well. As we celebrate the successes of the last two years, we need to remind ourselves it is a difficult road ahead and many are still not working. Isaacson faces an uncertain and difficult future and the number of unemployed could increase dramatically. As Berlin's Mayor, he and Council will assist in any way they can to help. It is important for the city to do all they can to keep members working in our community. We need to explore and encourage new employment opportunities, we must remind ourselves of who we are. Berlin is an honest, hardworking blue collar community and that is our greatest strength.

The new owner of the paper mill spending millions of dollars to reinvest in the industry and the Bureau of Prisons will help us boast that Berlin is a great place to raise a family and live a laidback life. To support this, we need to continue to be tough on landlords and tenants who don't share our values. Law enforcement in this city will continue to receive the necessary resources to rule out those who have no respect for their neighbors or our way of life. Berlin's municipal budget will be thoroughly scrutinized and prioritized. We finally got a strong wind on our backs with the prospect of redeveloping Main Street. After close to fifteen years, the Rite Aid Block will be torn down and we must capture the energy of this new opportunity.

Mayor Grenier will ask the City Council and City Manager to include in the budget funding for the moving downtown forward initiative. This is an investment in Berlin's future and it is critical for City Government to take an active role. Success breeds success and housing initiative efforts now have a positive impact in Berlin. Mayor Grenier thanked Cate Street Capital, Lynn Tilton for Gorham Paper, Governor Lynch, Jeanne Shaheen, Congressman Bass and Gene Chandler who have all contributed to Berlin's future. Congressman Bass knows the issues and will be kept up to date and the Mayor is proud he is a personal friend. Mayor Grenier concluded by giving thanks to his family, wife Brenda, son Eric and his fiancée Christine for their support. He remembers Berlin in the early sixties as a community like no other. It was a city of families knowing families. He remembers the pride we all felt when we told people we were from Berlin. Mayor Grenier asked "Shouldn't that be the goal of all of us here tonight? It all starts here tonight."

8. Adjournment: There being no further business before the Mayor and Council, Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Nelson to adjourn the inaugural meeting. So moved, the motion carried and Mayor Grenier declared the inaugural meeting adjourned at approximately 7:05 p.m.

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