

## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY, April 16, 2012**

Mayor Grenier called the City Council Meeting to order at approximately 8:15 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. The pledge of allegiance to the flag preceded roll call. Present: Councilors Remillard, Otis, Morgan Allain, Higbee, Rozek and Th  berge. Councilors Ducharme and Nelson were absent. Also present: Pat MacQueen, Pam Laflamme citizens and the press.

### **Minutes, Previous Meeting**

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to accept the minutes of the April 2 Regular Meeting/Work Session; April 9 Work Session. So moved, the motion carried.

**Disbursements:** It was recommended by the Committee on Accounts/Claims to pay all bills start date 4/05/2012; end date 4/18/2012 for a total cash disbursement of \$1,110,378.22 Draft #1663 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:** No comments.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Council Committee Reports. No Reports.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

2. Resolution 2012-10 accepting Three Hundred Ninety-Nine Dollars and Twenty Cents (\$399.20) donated to the Recreation Department for the annual "Easter Eggstravaganza." (1<sup>st</sup> read)

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to table the resolution and schedule a public hearing on May 7. So moved, the motion carried.

3. City Manager's Report.

### **WWTP Phase II Improvement Bids**

Apex	\$13,137,700
TBuck	\$13,714,714
Penta	\$14,391,700
Trumbull/Nelson	\$14,391,700

### **Testimony on SB 306 and Amendment to SB 291**

On Wednesday afternoon of last week I received word from Senator Gallus's office that SB 306 was being heard the next morning by the House Municipal and County Government Committee in Concord. This is the legislation that we submitted to amend the existing law to provide that users of the commercial and industrial construction property tax exemption be required to apply for such exemption in advance of such construction rather than retroactively as was allowed in the original legislation. It also extends indefinitely the *sunsetting* provision of the original legislation which would have *sunsetted* in 2013. Senator Gallus sponsored both the original legislation and this amendment at our behest and was there to support its passage. I attended and spoke in favor of the legislation as well. There were no voices in opposition and most of the Committee time was spent on an amendment just introduced which had nothing to do with the original legislation. Overall, the feeling was that the Committee was very supportive.

While in Concord, Senator Gallus asked me to support an amendment to SB 291 which would provide \$550,000 to purchase land and erect on it an outdoor fire training facility similar to the one that already exists at the Fire Academy in Concord. This would make it much easier for fire personnel in the North Country to utilize this type of simulation but close to reality training because of the difficulty it is for many people to get to Concord from up here. Senator Gallus, Senator Dellasandro, the Assistant Public Safety Commissioner Earl Sweeney, the new Director of the Fire Academy, a Fire Officer from Littleton and I all spoke in favor of this amendment. No one spoke against it and the feeling is that it will pass the Committee and move along quickly in the Committee as the money is available from a Fire Trust Fund.

### **Property Sale Bids and Demolitions**

Recent demolitions include 653, 661 and 790 Western Avenue. The land for the first two will now go out for sale while the third piece of land will be retained because of its location next to the lot where we have been placing clean fill. Four properties are about to be put out for sale. These are 590 Goebel, 819 Fourth Ave. and 24 Birch.

### **I&I Work**

Phase I contract 2 which got started this winter is in progress. The contractor is currently in the McGee Interceptor drainage area and is currently going across Riverside Drive and up McGee Street with the main sewer line. This should be crossed this week. Separation is also going on in homes in the drainage area (McGee, Howard, Noury and Riverside).

Contract 3 work is being put together for bid which will concentrate on the east side.

Councilor Remillard asked the City Manager if the four properties that are going out to bid are going out to the best bid offer or the minimum bid as done in the past. Pat replied he will check on it and let her know.

Councilor Theberge asked if runoff water was going into the river or the city sewer system. The City Manager confirmed it is not going to the sanitary sewer system and storm drain runoff water should go directly into the river and not the waste water treatment facility.

Councilor Remillard asked about where sump pump water goes. The City Manager replied that some sump pumps go directly to the sanitary sewer system which is illegal. However, we are not treating it as illegal. We are going into people's homes and paying to correct that to put it into the storm system so it does not go to the waste water treatment facility. That comes out of the city sewer money because the federal government or the state will not pay for it.

Councilor Rozek explained that the true objective here is household waste water goes to the waste water treatment facility and runoff storm water goes to the river. Sometimes with underground runoff, you may have sewer lines that may or may not have basement pumps pumping water in there. The biggest problem is that some of the underground sewer lines may have opened up or broken up so at a saturated high water table, all that underground water is running into the sewer line inundating our treatment facility.

Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Otis to accept the City Manager's report and place it on file. So moved, the motion carried.

## **4. Mayor's Report**

- Appointments:

### **North Country Council:**

Mayor Grenier nominated Martha Creegan and Peter Higbee to represent the city for a two year appointment with a term set to expire 4/30/14. Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Rozek to accept the Mayor's nominations to the North Country Council. So moved, the motion carried.

### **Planning Board:**

Mayor Grenier nominated Tom McCue, Ernie Allain and Aline Boucher as regular members for a three year term set to expire April 2015; Diane Alinovi as an alternate member for a three year term set to expire April 2015. Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Theberge to accept the Mayor's Planning Board nominations as presented. So moved, the motion carried.

Mayor Grenier presented Berlin's Cane of Wisdom to Berlin's oldest resident, Flora Gauvin who is 100 years old. Flora shared fond memories about the early times in Berlin with the Mayor.

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

5. Public Comments: No comments.

6. Council Comments:

Councilor Theberge invited all to attend the ATV meeting Wednesday April 18, 9:00 am at City Hall. They plan to discuss the use of ATV's in residential areas.

Councilor Rozek suggested an item of discussion at this meeting could be opening the entire city during the ATV Festival weekend.

7. Adjournment:

There being no further business before the Mayor and Council, Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Otis to adjourn the regular meeting. So moved, Mayor Grenier declared the regular meeting adjourned at approximately 8:33 p.m.

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