

Public Hearing – June 18, 2012

Mayor Grenier opened the duly scheduled and advertised public hearing at approximately 7:34 p.m. to receive public comments on the following subject matters:

- Resolution 2012-18 Adopting a Budget for the 2013 Fiscal Year. Mayor Grenier explained that this resolution already had a public hearing in May. This is the last time for comments on the proposed FY 2013 budget. There were no comments.
- Resolution 2012-19 Accepting a donation of \$2,000 from CCB in Memory of Patrick Forestall and Appropriating the donation to the Recreation Dept. Budget for Babe Ruth Baseball. No comments.
- Resolution 2012-20 Apply for and Accept NH Fire Academy Training Grant for up to \$6,984.93. 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 7:35 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, June 18, 2012

Mayor Grenier called the City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:35 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. The pledge of allegiance to the flag preceded roll call. Present: Councilors Remillard, Otis, Higbee, Rozek, Nelson and Th  berge. Councilors Ducharme and Morgan Allain were absent. Mayor Grenier confirmed both let him know they would not be present. Also present: Pat MacQueen, Corinne Cascadden, Bryan Lamirande, citizens and the press.

Minutes, Previous Meeting

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to accept the minutes of the June 4 Regular Meeting/Work Session; June 11 Work Session. So moved, the motion carried.

Disbursements: Disbursement Summary Draft #1667 start date 6/07/2012; end date 6/20/2012 has a total cash disbursement of \$1,085,387.53. Councilor Nelson 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: Janet Tremblay 812 Second Avenue, inquired about the status of the Rt 110 project in her neighborhood. The City Manager replied that he would arrange to have the City Planner contact Ms. Tremblay to provide her with current information about the project.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Council Committee Reports. No Reports.
2. Resolution 2012-18R2 adopting a budget and appropriating money to defray the expenses of Berlin's City Government for the fiscal year 2013. (tabled 6/4/12) Resolved by the City Council of the City of Berlin as follows:
That the following budget be adopted and accordingly, the sum of Thirty-Eight Million, Two Hundred Fifty-One Thousand, Seven Hundred Forty Five Dollars (\$38,251,745.00) be appropriated to defray the expenses of Berlin's City Government for the period of July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013, less expected revenues, with the balance to be raised by taxation on real estate of the municipality

ACCT. #	ACCOUNT TITLE	FY2012	FY2013
01-401	MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL	47,608	47,608
01-402	ADMINISTRATION	1,119,803	1,074,922
01-403	ELECTIONS	15,310	12,030
01-404	CITY HALL AND OTHER BUILDINGS	53,122	54,922
01-406	PROPERTY AND LIABILITY INS	176,179	170,084
01-408	CENTRAL SERVICES	249,580	249,580
01-409	DISCOUNTS AND ABATEMENTS	-	-
01-410	PERSONNEL BENEFITS	306,500	290,500
01-411	CONTINGENCY	9,600	9,600

01-412	OUTSIDE AGENCIES	64,787	64,914
01-413	CEMETERY	11,911	11,861
	Total General Government	2,054,400	1,986,022
01-420	POLICE DEPARTMENT	2,768,774	2,810,505
01-421	FIRE DEPARTMENT	1,952,995	2,038,820
01-422	STREET LIGHTING	122,100	122,000
01-423	AMBULANCE SERVICE	240,000	246,000
01-424	SPECIAL PUBLIC SAFETY	72,740	70,470
	Total Public Safety	5,156,609	5,287,794
01-425	HOUSING COORDINATOR Total	66,608	80,443
	Total Housing Coordinator	66,608	80,443
01-430	PUBLIC WORKS Total	1,821,013	1,611,642
01-431	ENGINEERING Total	117,211	115,790
01-436	SOLID WASTE Total	898,980	853,374
	Total Public Works	2,837,204	2,580,806
01-440	HEALTH DEPARTMENT Total	519,135	481,315
01-441	WELFARE Total	85,881	124,890
01-450	RECREATION AND PARKS Total	378,771	382,745
01-451	LIBRARY Total	171,862	172,534
	Total Community Services	1,155,649	1,161,484
01-470	CITY DEBT SERVICE Total	1,508,263	1,458,571
01-480	CITY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS Total	386,300	743,600
	Total City Debt and CIP	1,894,563	2,202,171
	Total City General Fund	13,165,033	13,298,719
01-460	SCHOOL OPERATING Total	16,311,124	16,731,124
01-470	SCHOOL DEBT SERVICE Total	787,779	733,509
01-461	SCHOOL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	23,400	-
	TOTAL SCHOOL GENERAL FUND	17,122,303	17,464,633
01-407	COUNTY TAX Total	1,450,000	1,778,000
01-414	TRANSFER OUT	51,770	62,046
	TOTAL CITY GENERAL FUND	31,789,106	32,603,399
	OTHER CITY FUNDS		
10-405	SCHOOL GRANTS/DONATIONS	36,285	36,285
10-483	SCHOOL EDUCATION GRANTS	2,342,594	2,319,620
11-464	SCHOOL FOOD SERVICES	700,000	700,000
13-400	TRUST FUNDS	0	0
13-468	RECREATION ACTIVITY	32,000	41,400
21-400	BERLIN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT	514,742	64,742
20-400	GRANT FUND	395,187	237,503
31-400	NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION FUND	37,678	0
31-427	NSP 3	0	5,000
31-484	EDI SPECIAL PROJECTS	0	5,000
59-400	CDBG GRANTS	0	5,000
60-432	SEWER FUND	1,793,181	1,846,932
63-437	CATES HILL LANDFILL	10,000	10,000
64-400	MT. CARBERRY LANDFILL	548	1,700
65-434	BERLIN AIRPORT FUND	461,907	373,163
66-100	COURTHOUSE FUND	9,294	2,000
	TOTAL OTHER FUNDS	6,333,416	5,648,346
	TOTAL CITY BUDGET – ALL FUNDS	38,122,522	38,251,745

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 amend the resolution to reflect the increases and decreased as recommended in the 2012-18R2 resolution. 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 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. Roll call resulted in unanimous affirmative votes of Council including Mayor Grenier who declared the resolution, as amended now passed.

3. Resolution 2012-19 accepting a donation of \$2,000 from CCB, Inc. in memory of Patrick Forestall and appropriating these funds to the Recreation Department for Babe Ruth Baseball. (tabled 6/4/12)
Resolved by the City Council of the City of Berlin as Follows:

Whereas, CCB Inc. Construction Services has confirmed that they want to play a role to support Berlin's Babe Ruth Baseball Program in memory of Patrick Forestall as indicated by their donation of \$2,000; and

Whereas, Mr. Forestall would have been proud to know he will be a part of the development of Berlin's youth through sports, which he loved dearly; and

Whereas, CCB, Inc. is challenging the City to match its donation with a \$500 contribution to the Babe Ruth Baseball Program; and

Whereas, the corporate gift and any additional funds raised by Mr. Forrestal's friends and co-workers are to be used to support the Babe Ruth Program in the future, be it with additional equipment, or paying the participation fee for kids who want to play, but may not be able to afford it.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved by the City Council of the City of Berlin that a \$2,000 corporate donation from CCB, Inc. is accepted in memory of Patrick Forestall and hereby appropriated to the Berlin Recreation Department for the Babe Ruth Baseball Program. Be it further resolved that any additional funds raised by Mr. Forestalls' friends and co-workers are to be appropriated to the Recreation Department and used to support the Babe Ruth Program in the future. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after passage.

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

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

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

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

4. Resolution 2012-20 authorizing the application, acceptance and appropriation of a grant of up to \$6,984.93 to fund specialty fire rescue training to members of the City of Berlin Fire Department. (tabled 6/4/12) Resolved by the City Council of the City of Berlin as Follows:

Whereas, the Berlin Fire Department has the opportunity to obtain specialized rescue training for several Berlin Firefighters with all costs including backfill, overtime being reimbursed by the New Hampshire Department of Safety and through the New Hampshire Fire and EMS Academy Training Grant Fund.

Now therefore, be it resolved by the Mayor and Council of the City of Berlin that the City Manager is hereby authorized to apply for, accept and do all the things necessary to carry out and effectuate a NH Fire and EMS Academy training grant in the amount of up to \$6,984.93. Be it further resolved that the grant amount of up to 6,984.93 is hereby appropriated to the Fire Department Fund 30 grant budget for the aforesaid purpose. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after passage.

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

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

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

5. City Manager's Report.

WWTF Improvements

The improvements at the WWTF seem to have gotten off to a great start. The Contractor has put together plans which at the moment anyway have things on a fast track. Both the concrete and the blasting subs have been on site and are well underway. The blasting excavations for the new clarifier are close to being completed and the concrete pouring has begun on the foundation for the new disinfection structure. I have enclosed some pictures to give you a feel for the heavy work thus far.

Tax Deeded Properties

Originally 36 properties were Tax Deeded in 2012. Two properties have been added that previously had notification issues in 2011, bringing the total to 38 properties. These break down as follows: 9 Parcels - Land; 5 Commercial; 9 Multi-Family (4 occupied, 5 unoccupied); 15 Single Family (12 occupied, 3 unoccupied); 5 Property owners have expressed interest in re-purchase, but have not given formal notification to date.

In terms of the progress thus far, on 5/17/12, all occupied properties received a visit from the Housing Coordinator, Welfare Office, and Code Enforcement to notify of the Tax Deed and assess concerns. On May 27th and June 4th, all properties received "notices to quit" delivered by the BPD. On May 29th, Letters of Opportunity to repurchase were sent out. We have boarded up 2 vacant properties, and 3 more will be boarded up and secured this week. The Finance Director and Housing Coordinator have been following up with city lawyer to locate property owners for proper notification and sign-off. The Housing Coordinator & Health Officer are working with tenants on relocation. Asbestos Abatement Bids are due Thursday, June 21 for 729 & 735 Second Ave and 216 Grafton.

June is Home Ownership Month

This year USDA Rural Development has selected 636 Beaudoin Street in Berlin (also part of the Revitalization program under the CDBG grant) for volunteer assistance to clean up with painting, minor repairs and clean-up. For some reason, a home in Berlin qualifies year after year. USDA Rural Development, TCCAP, and the Berlin Neighborhood Revitalization Committee, and other volunteers will all participate on Thursday June 28 to assist the homeowner with the rehab work. State dignitaries will be attending. Mayor and Council members are invited as well.

PILT Payment

Secretary of the Interior Salazar has provided us with the attached letter telling us how lucky we are to be receiving a full PILT payment for the half of the City of Berlin that is occupied by the National Forest. This \$40k PILT does not come close to compensating the City for the fact that one-half of it is owned and operated by the Federal Government. To add insult to injury they then turn around and charge Berlin residents a fee to enter it.

Library Summer Reading Program

Attached is the flier for the Library Summer Reading Program for Grades Pre-K through 1st grade which will be held on Thursday's 10-11am from July 5th through August 9, 2012.

Jericho Warming Hut

Attached is a piece put together by Larry Gomes of the White Mountain Ridge Runners on the new Jericho Mountain State Park Warming Hut which opened its doors on December 3, 2011. Already, over 700 people have stopped at the hut and the vast majority of those were not local people. A breakdown of the visitors is given which shows that a little over were from other parts of NH with a large remainder being from other

eastern states as far south as Georgia and Florida and a few being international visitors from places like Australia and Belgium.

NH-PTAP Training in Berlin

Attached is a flier from NH DRED inviting businesses interested in selling to the federal government to a workshop which will be held in Berlin at the WMCC on June 21st.

Legislative Matters

CACR 6. This proposed constitutional amendment to prohibit future increases in state taxes or license fees without super-majority (60%) approval in both the house and Senate died last week when it failed to get sufficient votes in the House.

NHMA Policy Process The NHMA Policy Process for the 2013-2014 biennium has been underway since April. Three legislative policy committees have completed their work and submitted their final issues lists to the Municipal Advocacy Committee (MAC). The MAC reviewed the lists and determined the final policy recommendations to be submitted to the full NHMA membership at the September 21 Legislative Policy Conference. These final policy recommendations will also be sent to all governing body members and administrative staff in member municipalities for their review. Any proposed floor policies from member municipalities must be received no later than August 17 so they can be distributed to all members for consideration before the conference. Former City Councilor Tom McCue is the City's representative to this.

Mayor Grenier asked how many of the fifteen single family homes may be repurchased. The City Manager replied that so far only five property owners have given formal notification to date. Single or two family homes can be considered for the waiver. The Mayor asked who determines the waiver and Pat said the law determines the waiver through a series of questions that need to be answered in order to qualify. Five of the unoccupied buildings are in an advanced state of disrepair.

Councilor Rozek mentioned a problem for police on the corner at the top of Mt. Forist Street.

Councilor Rozek gave Kudos to Henry Noel and his staff for being on top of the big construction project underway at the WWTF complete with a nice detailed matrix of the project. It is nice to see some segments of City Government follow through on a project. They have a picture that shows the size and enormity of the project and Henry is doing a great job.

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

Councilors Remillard and Nelson asked the City Manager to provide them with a list of the tax deeded properties.

6. Mayor's Report

Appointments:

BIDPA: Sally Manikian for a term to expire June 2015; Max Makaitis for a term to expire June 2015. Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Higbee to accept the Mayor's BIDPA nominations of Sally Manikian and Max Makaitis. So moved, the motion carried.

Mayor Grenier will travel to Sherbrook, Canada on Wednesday for an Economic Development Conference. Department of Resources & Economic Development Commissioner George Bald invited Mayor Grenier to attend. Over 120 businesses will attend to promote the virtues of relocating to Coos County and the Northern NH. There are many successes in Colebrook by Canadians who have had good luck in relocating there. DRED and PSNH will sponsor the event. The Mayor, a "Francophone" will represent the City of Berlin.

Mayor Grenier then thanked Councilors Rozek and Remillard for bringing the construction plight to sight. It was an awkward public setting but the City of Berlin will reap the benefits. The construction was both a distraction and inconvenience to neighborhoods in that area. If it wasn't for their efforts to stay on top of the matter, we would still have problems today. The slides that Councilor Rozek presented were helpful and they brought the point home.

The Mayor also gave thanks to Patty Chase for her hard work in getting the finance books straight. It was not an easy task and there was lots of work to do. Her efforts did not go unnoticed and Mayor Grenier thanked Patty from the bottom of his heart. Council also thanked Patty as well.

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

7. Public Comments:

Corinne Cascadden, 1787 Hutchins Street, on behalf of the Schools thanked the Mayor and Council for their due diligence with the budget process and hopes they are as transparent as Council wants them to be. She realizes they all have day jobs besides being on Council and appreciates their hard work.

8. Council Comments:

Councilor Rozek received feedback about the ATV Festival and how the use of the city is forward thinking and visionary. He passed that compliment onto Bob Danderson whose thought process got this off the ground. Some other comments he got is that this is a step in the right direction for a large segment of the community.

9. Adjournment:

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

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