

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, February 3, 2014

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 8:23 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. The pledge of allegiance to the flag preceded roll call. Present: Councilors Remillard, Otis, Morgan Allain, Benski, Higbee, Rozek, Nelson and Theberge. Also present: James Wheeler and the press.

Minutes, Previous Meeting

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Higbee to accept the minutes of the January 20 Work Session and Regular Meeting and January 27 Work Session. So moved, the motion carried.

Disbursements: Disbursement Summary Draft #1708 start date 1/18/2014 end date 2/03/2014 for a total cash disbursement of \$891,298.99 Councilor Theberge moved with a second by Councilor Nelson 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. Ordinance 2014-02 Amending the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 13, Streets, Article IV Parks & Recreation, Division 2, Operation of Off Highway Recreational Vehicles, Sec.13-112. Operation of OHRV's. (1st read)
Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to table the ordinance and schedule a public hearing on February 17. So moved, the motion carried.
3. Resolution 2014-02 Authorizing an application to the US Environmental Protection Agency for a Brownfields Community-wide assessment grant for the sum of Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000 hazardous substances & \$200,000 petroleum) to provide for Phase I and Phase II assessments of potentially contaminated properties. (1st read)
Councilor Nelson moved with a second by Councilor Theberge to table the resolution and schedule a public hearing on February 17. So moved, the motion carried.
4. Communication from Raul Reyes of the Northern NH Youth Football & Cheer to use Gaydo Field.
This item was discussed during the Work Session. See Work Session minutes for details.
5. City Manager's Report
Fire at Mt. Carberry Landfill January 26th through January 28th.
The Berlin Fire Department provided fire-fighting services over a period of three days (Jan. 26th – Jan. 28th) to control and extinguish a fire that started within a pile of stored wood chips. The source of the fire appears to be spontaneous combustion. The fire originated and took hold deep in the pile and required extremely large quantities of water to ultimately extinguish it. The City's mutual aid agreement with Gorham was utilized to increase the amount of water that could be brought on-site to gain control of the fire. The City will be able to seek reimbursement for these services through its agreement with the County for responding to the unincorporated township of Success. At this point, the estimated cost of services is slightly over \$10,200.00.

AHEAD Renovation of Notre Dame Building

On Thursday January 30th, AHEAD held the official groundbreaking for the conversion of the building to Senior Living Apartments. Attached is the latest Site Observation Report as prepared by Alba Architects. The attached report highlights roofing, demolition and re-framing as recent work items.

School Update Information from Corinne Cascadden, Supt.

Supt. Cascadden asked me to provide you the following information:

1. The Berlin Board of Education will hold their public hearing on the FY15 budget on **Thursday, Feb. 6, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the BHS Library**. Please see the attached agenda.
2. A school committee has been discussing the implementation of a full day kindergarten program and would like to invite any interested councilors to a planning meeting. This meeting is a follow-up from a brainstorming session held last week with administrators and teachers K-12, along with 2 board representatives. We have a long list of options and would like to narrow that list in order to continue planning. Our goal is to offer full-day kindergarten instead of half-day programming in Sept., 2015. Common Core State Standards are written for full day kindergarten. With a half-day program, our students will be behind the academic gains needed to be successful in grade 1 and always work to catch up, thus widening the achievement gap.

Please feel free to join us and participate in the discussions on **Thursday, Feb. 12, 2014 from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. in the BHS Library**.

First Annual NCOHRV Coalition Annual Meeting

I attended the Annual Meeting on January 28th. For your benefit I have attached several of the meeting documents including the agenda and a history of the Coalition. Sen. Woodburn was the guest speaker. Sen. Woodburn and other speakers strongly promoted the initiative as a County initiative that has and will continue to benefit the entire County.

Recreations News

Berlin Recreation is offering a new program “Clay Sculpturing with Jean Bartoli.” This renowned Berlin artist came forward to offer his time and talent to area students. We are happy to announce nine boys and girls ages 6 – 10 will be developing their artistic skills for the next four weeks.

Berlin Pollution Control Facility Monthly Report

See attached report from Henry Noel, Superintendent.

Letter of Thanks from NH Fish and Game Department

Attached is a letter dated January 29, 2014 from Glen Normandeau, Executive Director of the NH Fish and Game Dept. Director Normandeau praises the work of Eric Kaminsky and highlights what an asset the airport has been during the recent moose collaring project.

Hutchins St. Bid Opening

The bid opening for the reconstruction project of Hutchins St. from Bridge St. to Wood St. was held on January 30, 2014 at City Hall. There were five bidders on the project which represents a reasonably competitive climate for a project of this type. The bidders and their respective pricing is as follows:

Bid Order	Bidder	Amount of Base Bid
1.	AB Logging, Lancaster, NH	\$357,521.50
2.	Nelson Communications, Conway, NH	\$385,315.00
3.	RM Piper, Plymouth, NH	\$432,378.75
4.	Couture Construction, Berlin, NH	\$439,598.00
5.	Coleman & Son, Conway, NH	\$453,200.00

AB Logging is the apparent low bidder. The bids and bidder qualifications will be reviewed before a recommendation to award is made.

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

Mayor Grenier mentioned the Mt. Carberry fires and as Councilor Rozek can attest, the Fire Department fought fires there on three different occasions. The last time they were called in they were there for about twelve hours straight and performed great under extremely adverse conditions. The Mayor gave hats off to the Fire Department for a job well done.

6. Mayor's Report

Mayor Grenier stated that next week due to the size of the Work Session agenda, they will need to meet in the Auditorium. Senator Woodburn and BIDPA regarding the sale of a building the White Mountain Community College currently owns. College representatives will be here for a discussion within the community about the college curriculum and future commitment in the area.

The second part of the Work Session will be a discussion on the Northern Pass Transmission Project. The Mayor will distribute materials and it might be time to discuss if the City should take a position and should it be a qualified position to move the dialogue, so that the parties that support and do not support the project can come to some kind of a workable solution. There is a workable solution out there.

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 – No comments

8. Council Comments

Councilor Higbee attended his first Emergency Action Plan Committee meeting and they were surprised to see a Council representative there. The Committee is planning a training exercise in the spring simulating people from the area trying to get medication due to an epidemic. He will keep Council informed as things progress.

9. Adjournment:

There being no further business before the Mayor and Council at this time, Councilor Theberge 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 8:37 p.m.

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