

## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, April 7, 2014**

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 8:14 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, Nelson and Theberge. Councilor Benski was absent. Also present: James Wheeler, LT Dan Buteau, Pam Laflamme and the press.

### **Minutes, Previous Meeting**

Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Morgan Allain to accept the minutes of the March 17 Work Session and Regular Meeting and March 19 Budget; March 24 and 31 Work Session. So moved, the motion carried.

**Disbursements:** Disbursement Summary Draft #1712 start date 3/17/2014 end date 4/7/2014 for a total cash disbursement of \$1,953,056.21. 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.

Mayor Grenier rose to a point of order to add #4a to tonight's agenda. Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Theberge to add #4a Modification Petition to the PELRB to the agenda. Roll call resulted in unanimous affirmative votes. #4a was placed on the agenda.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS – No comments**

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Council Committee Reports – No Reports

### **NEW BUSINESS**

2. Resolution 2014-05 authorizing the Berlin Police Commission to apply for and receive funds for any and all purposes from the New Hampshire Highway Safety Agency for Highway Safety Project Grants for Fiscal Year 2015. (1<sup>st</sup> read)  
Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Morgan Allain to table the resolution and schedule a public hearing on April 21, 2014. So moved, the motion carried.
3. Resolution 2014-06 authorizing the Berlin Police Commission to apply for and accept \$35.00 (thirty-five dollars) in grant funds from the NH Department of Safety for the purpose of programming one portable radio and appropriating said funds to the Berlin Police Department to effectuate the grant. (1<sup>st</sup> read)  
Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Morgan Allain to table the resolution and schedule a public hearing on April 21, 2014. So moved, the motion carried.
4. Resolution 2014-07 Supporting the Passage of New Hampshire Senate Bill 366 by the NH House of Representatives. (1<sup>st</sup> read, Suspend Rules) Resolved by the City Council of the City of Berlin as follows:

Whereas, revenue sharing with New Hampshire cities and towns pursuant to New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated 31-A has been suspended since 2010;

Whereas, prior to the suspension of revenue sharing in 2010, the City of Berlin was receiving \$1,043,452 in additional state funding on an annual basis;

Whereas, New Hampshire Senate Bill 366, as amended, provides for the authorization of casino gaming in New Hampshire and was approved by the New Hampshire Senate on March 27, 2014, by a 15-9 vote;

Whereas, New Hampshire Senate Bill 366 will also fully restore revenue sharing with New Hampshire cities and towns so that the City of Berlin could again expect to receive additional state funding of \$1,043,252 on an annual basis;

Whereas, New Hampshire Senate Bill 366, as amended, will now be considered by the New Hampshire House of Representatives. Now therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Berlin that the City Council, finding that it would materially benefit the City of Berlin, urges the New Hampshire House of Representatives to vote in favor of passage of New Hampshire Senate Bill 366, as amended. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after passage

Councilor Nelson moved with a second by Councilor Morgan Allain 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 suspend the Rules of Council to send the resolution onto its final passage at this time. Roll call resulted in unanimous affirmative votes of Council including Mayor Grenier who declared the Rules of Council now Suspended.

Councilor Nelson moved with a second by Councilor Morgan Allain 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.

4a PELRB Modification Petition

Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Nelson to authorize the City Manager or its legal counsel to execute and submit a Modification Petition, jointly with AFSCME Local 1444, to the PELRB which seeks to exclude all employees of the Berlin Water Works from the local 1444 bargaining unit of which the City of Berlin is the employer. So moved, the motion carried.

5. City Manager's Report

**Housing**

- Community Garden & Park (former site of 115 Mason & Granite St)
  - A "name the park" contest was held with Grade School Students in Berlin and the results were compiled and a selection was made at the March meeting of the Community Garden Committee. The name "Friendship Park" was selected from the entries. The student will receive a bike and helmet.
  - The Raised Garden beds are almost complete - (Being constructed by the Enriched Learning Center's Building Arts program), and will be installed at the park by the end of April (weather permitting).
  - An official groundbreaking will occur sometime in May.
- Demolitions
  - 376 Burgess St. has been abated and demolition bid will go out this week.
  - 1051 Main St. abatement to go out to bid this week (will combine garage & wall at 32 Ottawa).
  - ESA's (Environmental Site Assessments) have been conducted on 234 Main St., 79 Seventh St., 671 Cheshire, 827 Western, 32 Corbin & 52 Ottawa. Cost estimates have been submitted for 234 Main & 79 Seventh St. for abatement (each exceeds \$5000 and will need to go out to bid). The following properties are also on Acadia's schedule to conduct ESA's: 466 Burgess St., 22-24 Birch St., 290 Grafton St, and 630 Rockingham St.
  - 1051 Main St., 376 Burgess & garage at 32 Ottawa demolitions will be completed in FY14 and will utilize remaining demolition funds.

**Recreation Department**

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Recreation Easter Eggstravaganza will be held on Saturday, April 12. There is an open invitation to the community for children ages 2 – 10.

This event is made possible through generous donations from Verizon – Wireless Zone, Coulombe Real Estate and Gill's Florist & Candy Shop.

Ages 2 & 3 – 9:30 am; Ages 4 & 5 – 9:45 am

Ages 6 & 7 – 10:00 am; Ages 8,9,10 – 10:15 am

**Pollution Control – Emergency Generator Permits Received**

The City has received permits from the NH Air Resources Division for Emergency Generators located at the Watson St. Pumping Station and the Waste Water Treatment Facility. These permits are effective through April 30, 2015.

### **Approval of State Aid Grants for Wastewater Projects**

We have been notified by the NH Wastewater Engineering Bureau Grants Management Section that two projects, previously approved for the 20% grant program will begin receiving payment this month. The two projects and the respective grant amount that will be paid in a series of payments are:

East Milan Road Gravity Collection System, Pumping Facility and Force Main	\$1,155,833
I&I Reduction Phase I Contact I	\$ 156,135

(detailed payment schedules are attached)

### **Notre Dame Housing Project Update**

Please see the most recent project report attached.

### **League of Women Voters Survey – Berlin Gets and “A”**

The results of a recent League of Women Voters Survey on “Finding a Website and Basis Information on Voting/Elections” gave the City of Berlin an “A” for its website election information. The ratings and results of the survey were as follows:

A = Good Information, easily accessible (23 communities including Berlin)

B = Relatively complete information, but not necessarily easily found from homepage (29 communities)

C = Information incomplete, often hard to find (user needs to assume that town clerk’s page would have voter information) (75 communities)

D = Little information; difficult to find (52 communities)

F = No website; website under construction; no mention of voting or elections (58 communities)

### **HealthTrust Renewal Rates Received**

The overall renewal rates for July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 medical insurance plans with Healthtrust that cover approximately 50 employees has been set at 2.5%. While still in increase, let’s hope that this modest increase is a sign that efforts on the national, state and local levels to reduce the cost and overconsumption of healthcare are working. The FY’15 Budget Projection carried a projected rate increase of 6.3%. We will calculate the dollar saving and count this in the Council’s final budget.

### **NHMA Legislative Bulletin Excerpts and Updates**

*SB 367 – Increase in Road Toll for Transportation Funding*

On **Tuesday, April 8, at 10:00 a.m., in LOB rooms 210-211**, the House Public Works and Highway Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee will hold a joint hearing on **SB 367**, which increases the road toll by 4.2 cent per gallon of gas effective July 1, 2014.

As we have noted in past *Bulletins*, the House has been very supportive of a road toll increase to address the state’s highway and bridge infrastructure needs, but members of the joint committee still need to hear from you! Please contact your representatives who serve on the Public Works and Highways Committee and the Ways and Means Committee and urge their support for **SB 367**.

Berlin is estimated to receive an additional \$25,000 per year (or approximately \$450,000 over 18 years) as a result of this increase (see attached).

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

Mayor Grenier asked the City Manager if he got the final number not to exceed from the other carrier like he did for the Health Trust. The City Manager replied he did not.

Councilor Remillard inquired how the estimated revenues for SB 367 were calculated. The City Manager will do some research on the formula and get back to Council with an answer.

## **6. Mayor’s Report - **Appointments:****

### Planning Board:

Greg Estrella, regular member three year term set to expire April 2017

Lori Langlois, regular member three year term set to expire April 2017

Richard Cassidy, alternate member three year term set to expire April 2017

Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Higbee to accept the Mayor's Planning Board nominations as presented. So moved, the motion carried.

Mayor Grenier requested to have an appreciation plaque made for Dave Morin for the many years he served on the Planning Board.

Zoning Board of Adjustment:

Dana Hoyt, regular member three year term set to expire April 2017

Nathan Morin, regular member to fill two-year unexpired term set to expire April 2016

Gregg Marrer, alternate member three year term set to expire April 2017

It is with deep regret that the Mayor accepted Joe Lapuma's resignation.

Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Higbee to accept the Mayor's Zoning Board nominations as presented. So moved, the motion carried.

Mayor Grenier asked the City Clerk to advertise for the upcoming Water Commission vacancy to open the field to interested citizens throughout the city.

Councilor Nelson moved with a second by Councilor Rozek to accept the Mayor's oral report. So moved, the motion carried.

7. Public Comments – no comments

8. Council Comments – No comments

9. Adjournment:

There being no further business before the Mayor and Council at this time, Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Higbee to adjourn the regular meeting. So moved, the motion carried and Mayor Grenier declared the regular meeting closed at approximately 8:42 p.m.

A True Record, Attest:

Debra A. Patrick, CMC

City Clerk