

## **PUBLIC HEARING – JUNE 2, 2014**

Mayor Grenier opened the duly advertised public hearing at approximately 7:39 p.m. to discuss the following subject matters:

- Resolution 2014-10 Appropriate \$400,000 for Capital Improvement Projects – No comments
  - Resolution 2014-11 Appropriate \$15,000 Legal Fees for Utility Valuation Defense – No comments
- There being no comments for or against the subject matters, Mayor Grenier declared the public hearing portion of the meeting now closed.

Mayor Grenier asked to have a communication added to the agenda. Councilor Nelson moved with a second by Councilor Morgan Allain to add #5a Burgess Street Safety Communication from Danielle Bishop to the agenda. So moved, the motion carried.

## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, June 2, 2014**

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:40 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, Rozek, Nelson and Theberge. Councilor Higbee and City Manager James Wheeler were absent. Also present: Pam Laflamme as acting City Manager and Barbara Tetreault.

### **Minutes, Previous Meeting**

Councilor Theberge moved with a second by Councilor Nelson to accept the minutes of the May 19 Regular Meeting/WS and May 28 Budget Public Hearing. So moved, the motion carried.

**Disbursements:** Disbursement Summary Draft #1716 start date 5/21/2014 end date 6/2/2014 for a total cash disbursement of \$990,589.66. 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
2. Resolution 2014-10 appropriating \$400,000.00 to establish Capital Improvement Projects in the FY14 Budget. (tabled 5/19/2014) Resolved by the City Council of the City of Berlin as follows:

Whereas, the City of Berlin, sold a piece of property to PSNH for the expansion of the sub-station to better serve the energy needs of the community; and

Whereas, the sale resulted in the loss of a cold storage building and a skate park, both of which are planned to be rebuilt; and

Whereas, other projects such as new restrooms at Community Field and trail development could be undertaken.

Whereas, \$400,000.00 from the sale is to be used to establish a Capital Improvement Project Account in the FY14 Budget to be used to replace the space and buildings lost as a result of the sale of property at Community Field. Now Therefore Be It Resolved, by the Mayor and City Council that \$400,000.00 from the sale of a portion of Community Field is hereby appropriated to establish a Community Field Substation Sale Projects Account in the FY 14 budget. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after passage.

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

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 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 Morgan Allain to pass the resolution. So moved, the motion carried and Mayor Grenier declared the resolution now passed.

3. Resolution 2014-11 appropriating \$15,000.00 of Funding from Coos County to the Legal Services Account to Defend Utility Valuations. (tabled 5/19/14)

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

Whereas, the City and Great Lakes Hydropower (GLH) have been in dispute over tax valuations for three hydroelectric facilities in the City of Berlin; and

Whereas, the County has a legal defense fund from which it may allocate financial support for a municipality when the circumstances warrant it; and

Whereas, in a letter dated April 1, 2014, the City requested \$15,000 of assistance from the County.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, by the Mayor and City Council that \$15,000.00 from Coos County is hereby appropriated to the FY14 budget for legal services. 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 have the resolution 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 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. So moved, the motion carried and Mayor Grenier declared the resolution now passed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

4. Resolution 2014-12 adopting a budget and appropriating money to defray the expenses of Berlin's City Government for the fiscal year 2015. (1<sup>st</sup> read)

Councilor Theberge moved with a second by Councilor Benski to table the resolution and schedule a public hearing on June 16. So moved, the motion carried.

5. Resolution 2014-13 Appropriating \$4,000.00 of grant funding from the NH Charitable Foundation to the IT Initiative Account (01-480-965-0002) for new computers for the Berlin Public Library (1<sup>st</sup> read)

Councilor Nelson moved with a second by Councilor Morgan Allain to table the resolution and schedule a public hearing on June 16. So moved, the motion carried.

- 5a. Burgess Street Safety Communication.

Danielle Bishop, Burgess Street, requests stop signs to be placed on the corners of Burgess/Strafford Streets due to speeding traffic on that street making it a possible safety hazard.

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Rozek to remand the matter to the Safety Committee for further review and action. So moved, the motion carried.

6. City Manager's Report  
**Recreation**

The final week of a new activity, the "Young Athletes Program" will be held Sunday, June 8 from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. This is a joint venture with Berlin Recreation, NH Special Olympics, and dedicated volunteers to introduce children age 2 – 7 to the world of sports. With equipment supplied by NH Special Olympics, use of Berlin Recreation gymnasium and a group of dedicated volunteer coaches, Young Athletes served as an opportunity for children with and without disabilities to play and interact together. Thirteen children will be having their final week of a five week program and be given their award certificates and medals. We invite the Mayor and Council to attend the awards ceremony on June 8 from 4:00 – 5:00 pm at Berlin Recreation Center. You are welcome to say a few words and assist in giving out the awards to these delightful children.

## **Housing**

- 376 Burgess has been demolished. The final site work is being coordinated with PWD to address water drainage across the site.
- The 1051 Main St. asbestos abatement is completed.
- The 32 Ottawa St. garage was demolished along with the foundation walls which were threatening to cave into the adjacent Main St. property. A new retaining wall and final site work remains to be completed.
- 630 Rockingham - our person contracted to mow lawns reported a potential break-in and contacted the Housing Coordinator. Upon investigation she found propellants, stoves, lanterns, candles and torches. The Fire Dept. and Police Dept. were contacted immediately. It appears that arson was attempted but not successfully. The property was re-secured.

## **Public Works**

- Center Line Painting Contract was awarded to Highway Safety Systems. The tentative schedule is to line on the 16<sup>th</sup> of this month with a rain date of the 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Power was installed in Gill Park in time for Drive in the 50's on June 5<sup>th</sup>.
- The first pass of street sweeping is close to completion. We have discontinued sweeping in the daytime.
- Hutchins Street Project from Wood to Bridge Streets Update.
  - Old sidewalks have been removed.
  - The street has been reclaimed.
  - Drainage work is scheduled this week.
  - Berlin Waterworks is relocating six water service curb stops to the property line
- Community Field PSNH Project.
  - Mobilization begins Monday June 2<sup>nd</sup> and demolition shortly after.
  - CRC will begin to widen the road this week for equipment access
- Pot Hole and Patching
  - The patching work on major streets is largely completed. Some shimming work has been completed. We are evaluating the need for more shimming now.

## **Berlin Pollution Control**

Please see the attached report from the Superintendent.

## **EPA Presentation for the Chlor-Alkali Site**

The EPA Informational Meeting for the Chlor-Alkali Superfund Site was held on May 29<sup>th</sup> at Berlin City Hall. A copy of the presentation slides is attached. The presentation was given by Daryl Luce, Project Manager for the EPA. Also in attendance were additional representatives from EPA and NHDES as well as Brian Bresnahan from Rep. Annie Kuster's office and Chuck Henderson from Sen. Shaheen's office.

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.

Councilor Remillard asked to have the potholes between Wight to Hinchey Streets and Fifth Avenue be filled since three 3 people personally came to her house to complain.

Councilor Remillard said 630 Rockingham St. has been re-secured. Council previously discussed possible problems there, now they need to talk with the Housing Coordinator about taking it down.

7. Mayor's Report - No Report.

8. Public Comments – No comments

9. Council Comments

Councilor Nelson reminded all about The Drive-in-the 50's Thursday June 5, from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

10. Adjournment: There being no further business before the Mayor and Council at this time, Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Nelson to adjourn the regular meeting. So moved, the motion carried and Mayor Grenier declared the regular meeting closed at approximately 8:02 p.m.

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