

PUBLIC HEARING – AUGUST 4, 2014

Mayor Grenier opened the duly advertised public hearing at approximately 7:20 p.m. to discuss the following subject matters:

- Resolution 2014-16 Recreation Donations – No comments
- Resolution 2014-17 Police Dept \$10,000 OHRV Patrol Funding – No comments
- Resolution 2014-18 Accepting \$7,500 Hazard Mitigation Grant – No comments

There being no comments for or against the subject matters, Mayor Grenier declared the public hearing portion of the meeting now closed.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, August 4, 2014

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:21 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: City Manager James Wheeler and Barbara Tetreault.

Minutes, Previous Meeting

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to accept the minutes of the July 21 Regular Meeting/WS. So moved, the motion carried.

Disbursements: Disbursement Summary Draft #1721 start date 7/22/2014 end date 8/04/2014 for a total cash disbursement of \$1,224,415.86. 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 – Councilor Theberge reported that the Police Department said traffic control went well at the ATV Festival with few complaints and the Police Chief was pleased with the outcome. A wrap-up meeting is scheduled Tuesday August 12 at 10:00 am at City Hall.
2. Resolution 2014-16 appropriating \$4,446.77 of donations to the Berlin Recreation Department FY2014 budget for Babe Ruth Baseball, the Ski and Snowboard Program, Easter Eggstravaganza, city flowers and equipment (tabled 7/21/14)
Resolved by the City Council of the City of Berlin as follows:
That donations to the Berlin Recreation Department received from local citizens and businesses are hereby appropriated to the following:

Account	Name	Amount
30-368-601-0001	3 rd - 6 th Grade Ski & Snowboard Program	\$3,300.00
30-368-601-0004	To help purchase portable basketball systems	\$100.00
	Easter Eggstravaganza	\$421.77
	City Flowers	\$300.00
30-368-601-0002	Babe Ruth Baseball	\$325.00
	Total	\$4,446.77

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.

3. Resolution 2014-17 appropriating \$10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Dollars) from surplus funds from the Berlin Police Department's Fiscal Year 2014 Special Enforcement Budget (01-420-114-0000) to the Police Department's Fiscal Year 2015 budget to offset ATV Festival-related expenses (tabled 7/21/14) Resolved by the City Council of the City of Berlin as follows:

Whereas, The ATV Festival benefits the area by stimulating the local economy; and

Whereas, grant funds previously provided for ATV patrols have ended; and

Whereas, during the July 7, 2014 Work Session, Mayor Grenier took a straw poll of the Council, and they were in favor of using Fiscal Year 2014 Police Department surplus funds for the purpose of ATV Festival-related expenses. Now therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Berlin, NH, that the sum of \$10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Dollars) is hereby appropriated from surplus funds from the Berlin Police Department Fiscal Year 2014 Budget to the Berlin Police Department Fiscal Year 2015 Budget to offset ATV Festival-related expenses; and further that the above sum is in addition to all other previously appropriated funds for the Berlin Police Department Fiscal Year 2015 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.

4. Resolution 2014-18 accepting a grant from the NH Department of Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in the amount of \$7,500.00 to update the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan (tabled 7/21/14) Resolved by the City Council of the City of Berlin as follows:

Whereas, the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan is due to expire in August of 2015; and

Whereas, the NH Department of Safety has funding available to assist with the update of the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

Whereas, it is estimated that the total cost of the update will be \$10,000.00 of which the City will pay \$2,500.00 in kind services and the grant will pay \$7,500.00. Now therefore, be it resolved by the Mayor and City Council that a grant in the amount of \$7,500.00 is accepted from the NH Department of Safety and appropriated to the Berlin Fire Department to update the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan, be it further resolved that the City Manager is authorized to do all things necessary to effectuate the grant. 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

5. Polling Hours for the September 9, 2014 State Primary Election

Councilor Theberge asked why this report lists 4 voting precincts when he thought Council voted to have one voting district. Mayor Grenier explained that the one voting location was only for the March Special Election to replace Ray Burton with an expected low voter turnout. Councilor Theberge said it might be better to have the September election in one voting location again to save money since it would be a low voter turnout. Mayor Grenier said the whole question is “do you support easy access to the community to go vote?” He’s not sure that having one polling station with the community spread out the way that it is encourages people to go vote. With the expense that the City is going to save, the Mayor would support easy access to the polls even if it means spending more in the two election cycles, he will support keeping the four voting locations. He understands where the argument is going and he does not disagree but if you talk to the folks who go vote and ask if they will go vote elsewhere, a lot of them will not.

Councilor Remillard’s issue is that School Superintendent Corinne Cascadden has repeatedly voiced her concern for the safety of the students at the Brown School voting precinct. Councilor Remillard suggested possibly eliminating that location altogether. It is time that Council hears what the superintendent has to say.

The Brown School voting location is in Councilor Rozek’s area and he stated that before any changes are made, they need to find a suitable voting area in that same precinct. Everyone seems to forget that most of the Berlin voters are over 65 so that is where “access” comes in. The other thing is change in the polls. He was told by voters that if they could not vote there, they would not vote at all. He will fight that to the bitter end because he does not want to take away the voting privilege from anyone in Precinct 3 to save some money.

Councilor Remillard does not think it is about saving the money but it is more of a security matter since it has been brought to their attention. This needs to be discussed at a future work session.

Councilor Morgan Allain is all for the four locations as well but at what point do you stop letting the older people dictate where we are going to have our voting locations?

Councilor Theberge moved with a second by Councilor Higbee to set the polling hours from 8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. for the September 9 State Primary Election. So moved, the motion carried.

6. City Manager’s Report

Pursuant to RSA 155-B: 9-a, Chief Trull has made the initial contact with the owner of 106 Pleasant Street to provide the City with insurance information on the property. The statute also allows the City to place a lien on the Property for the cost of repairing [or razing and removing] a hazardous building, if the owner fails to do so and the City has to complete the work. We hope to get the building taken care of as soon as possible.

Berlin High School Homecoming celebration will be held Friday, September 12 beginning at 7:00 p.m. The parade route will begin at the Twelfth Street Bridge and proceed south down Main Street exiting Main Street at Iceland Street across from the Northern Forest Heritage Park. The traditional bonfire will be held at Heritage Park.

AB Logging plans to install the top course of pavement on Hutchins St. this week. In addition, they plan to pave the new sidewalk on the west side of the roadway. This work is dependent upon the occurrence of dry weather.

The Community Development Director has issued a Request for Qualifications for Engineering Consultants for the Upper Main St. Reconstruction Project targeted for construction next summer.

The Development Director has submitted a Letter of Intent to the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) of the New Hampshire Department of Transportation for a \$500,000 grant for the river walk that would be designed and constructed as part of the Upper Main St. Reconstruction Project should we be fortunate to acquire the funds to do so.

On August 1, 2014 the City received two proposals for the 5 Year Revaluation Update. Proposals were submitted by Steven M. Allen of Woodsville, NH and KRT Appraisal of Haverhill, MA. The proposals are currently under review and will be shared with the Board of Assessors, who will make a recommendation to the City Council in the near future.

The first meeting of the Berlin Fire Department Staffing Task Force was held on July 31, 2014 at the NECU Community Room. A copy of the meeting agenda is attached. This meeting was a very positive first step in looking at staffing models. All of the participants expressed their desire to find workable solutions.

The City of Berlin vs. Paul Croteau case has been rescheduled for August 22, 2014.

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.

Councilor Theberge asked if the Hutchins Street Project would be done this week. He received complaints from pedestrians having a hard time to get by on Maynesboro Street since there is no sidewalk. The City Manager replied that, weather permitting the paving will be done soon.

7. Mayor's Report - Appointment: Cemetery Trustee.

Alison Findsen for a three year term set to expire August 2017. Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Higbee to accept the Mayor's nomination of Alison Findsen. So moved, the motion carried.

Mayor Grenier thanked the AV Chamber of Commerce, ATV Club, City staff and the state folks who worked in unison to make the ATV Festival a success. It put Berlin in a good light not only in the State but also in New England. Berlin needs to develop another economy away from manufacturing. We have a niche in the tourism industry. Councilor Nelson's hard work did not go unnoticed along with the "team" she worked with. It is exciting to be involved in the public domain and the Mayor gave them "hats off." He also thanked Paul Ramsey from PSNH for hearing Berlin's concerns about a couple of items. Paul is formerly from Berlin and does all he can to help Berlin.

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

8. Public Comments – No Comments

9. Council Comments

Councilor Rozek spoke to former Mayor Danderson who was delighted to see such activity with the ATV Festival. Bob recommends that in order to move forward, we should consider doing what they do in Virginia and that is to see what they do about "launching" and setting up for ATV's in the City. If we want them to come to a festival event we need to involve motels and cater to such an event.

Councilor Nelson thanked all of Council for their support with the ATV Festival. It could not have been as big without their support and they all deserve credit.

Mayor Grenier asked the City Manager to calculate how much money the City spent on the festival including staff time, in-kind services, etc. It is important for the world to know the City of Berlin supports this initiative with money and taxpayer dollars helped too.

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 7:53 p.m.

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