

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, August 18, 2014

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 8:27 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. The pledge of allegiance to the flag preceded roll call. Present: Councilors Remillard, Otis, Benski, Higbee, Rozek, and Theberge. Councilors Morgan Allain and Nelson were excused for their absence. Also present: City Manager James Wheeler, Fire Chief Trull, Police Chief Morency, Pamela Laflamme, Linda White, citizens and Barbara Tetreault.

Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Otis to add #3a Police Department Contract Cost Items to tonight's agenda. So moved, the motion carried.

### Minutes, Previous Meeting

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to accept the minutes of the August 4 WS/Regular Meeting. So moved, the motion carried.

**Disbursements:** Disbursement Summary Draft #1722 start date 8/05/2014 end date 8/18/2014 for a total cash disbursement of \$916,895.50. Councilor Theberge moved with a second by Councilor Benski 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 – ATV Festival.

Councilor Theberge reported on the de-briefing meeting held after the ATV Festival. The overall consensus was that all went well and they were pleased with the large attendance of over 4,000. The Downtown Block Party was a success but the concert did not do as well. Kevin Jordan from Fish & Game said only 1 ticket was given. The committee is looking forward to next year and they hope to expand attendance to six or seven thousand.

#### NEW BUSINESS

2. Resolution 2014-19 to rescind the 2001 Copy of the City of Berlin Emergency Operations Plan and adopt the 2013 City of Berlin Updated Emergency Operations Plan. (1<sup>st</sup> read)

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to table the resolution and schedule a public hearing on September 2. So moved, the motion carried.

3. Resolution 2014-20 changing the name of a section of Hamlin Street (aka Gilbert Street) between First Avenue and Gilbert Street to Bartlett Court. (1<sup>st</sup> read)

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to table the resolution and schedule a public hearing on September 2. So moved, the motion carried.

3a. Police Department Union Local 3657 Contract Cost Items

	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>
Health Insurance Savings:	\$(85,620)	\$(55,000)
2% raises	25,376	25,883
50% Deductible Paid	17,500	17,500
Life Insurance A&D Security	10,420	10,420
30¢ Step Increase years 5&6 Dispatchers	2,448	2,448
Training Pay	<u>300</u>	<u>300</u>
Total Year Cost:	56,044	56,551
Total Year Savings	29,576*	(1,551)

\*Number presented by Police Department was actually 29,776 but was incorrect and over by \$200. Councilor Higbee noted that with respect for time, the second year raise numbers are off because he thinks the Chief inadvertently repeated the first year increase number for a difference of \$507 which makes the total savings for year two a minus \$1,551.

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to accept the Police Department Local 3657 Contract Cost Items. Roll call resulted in unanimous affirmative votes including Mayor Grenier who declared the contract cost items were accepted.

Mayor Grenier thanked the Police Chief and his department for reaching this labor agreement which is good for both employees and the taxpayers. This two year agreement won't cost much to the community but will keep the department moving forward.

4. City Manager's Report

ATV Festival. The de-brief meeting for the ATV Festival was held on Tuesday, August 12. A lot of information was shared and Fish and Game Major Kevin Jordan reported that his officers issued 60 summons and 60 warnings. He would stop 15 riders, ticket the lead rider and encourage the others to help pay for the ticket. He stated that those who don't abide by the rules have to see consequences for safety reasons and for the benefit of the sport in Coos County. If landowners decide to close their land because of those riders who don't follow the rules, the whole trail could be jeopardized.

Paula Kinney was kind enough to send over some of the comments from the Facebook page. They are attached.

1051 Main St. No bids were received for the land and the property will be re-bid soon.

376 Burgess St. was purchased the by abutter Patrick Kairis

2014 Tax Deeded Properties. Of the 19 properties tax deeded, 6 were repurchased. The 13 remaining properties include: 2 land parcels, 6 single family homes, and 5 multi-family. Many were vacant at tax deed and other tenants/homeowners have been cooperative with the eviction process. To date, the notice to quit period has expired and we will be assessing each property for demolition or resale within the next 2 weeks.

Human Resources. We received 25 applications for the position of Code-Housing Administrative Clerk. We have narrowed the field to 7 and interviews will be conducted on Tuesday and Wednesday, August 19 & 20.

Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade. The upgrade project is entering its final stages. Much of the new equipment has been brought online. Performance testing and equipment adjustments remain to be done on several systems including the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System (SCADA).

Hutchins St. Reconstruction. This project is substantially complete.

Councilor Rozek asked if the new truck route on Hutchins Street can be reoriented so the heavy weight can be shifted over since trucks are still coming through. The City Manager agreed.

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

5. Mayor's Report

Mayor Grenier cautioned that by the time Council has their next meeting school will be open and he reminded drivers to drive with caution. Law enforcement does an effective job watching for kids but he asked the public to also take extra precautions.

6. Public Comments – No Comments

7. Council Comments

Councilor Theberge commented about the legislative policy regarding blue lights on fire department vehicles. Mayor Grenier reminded Council that the pending legislative policy will be discussed with former Councilor McCue during the third meeting in September.

Councilor Rozek stated that one of our elementary schools has no blinking lights so he asked if the Police could patrol with radar by Brown School to let the public know there has been a change. That is the whole idea behind blinking yellow lights that they will get soon.

On another matter, Councilor Rozek mentioned that the Emergency Plan presented by the Fire Chief does not mention a wastewater treatment plan which is integral to city health.

8. Adjournment: There being no further business before the Mayor and Council at this time, Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Otis to adjourn the regular meeting. So moved, the motion carried and Mayor Grenier declared the regular meeting closed at approximately 8:46 p.m.

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