

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, November 17, 2014

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 8:15 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 and Theberge. Councilor Nelson was absent. Also present: City Manager James Wheeler, Administrative Assistant Sue Tremblay, Sherry Young, Jeffrey Young and Barbara Tetreault.

Minutes, Previous Meeting

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to accept the minutes of the November 3 Regular Meeting/WS and the November 10 WS. So moved, the motion carried.

Disbursements: Disbursement Summary Draft #1728 start date 11/4/2014 end date 11/17/2014 for a total cash disbursement of \$1,098,305.80. Councilor Theberge moved with a second by Councilor Morgan Allain 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 – Safety Committee

Councilor Rozek presented the following Safety Committee Recommendations:

- Western Avenue Deaf Child Sign Request. Committee recommendation is to install a “deaf child” sign on either side of 744 Western Avenue. The City Manager will work on the process to allow the sign to be removed when it is no longer needed.

- First Avenue between Clark/Shepard Street No Parking Sign Request. There is a blind spot and there have been many traffic accidents in that area. The Committee recommendation is to invite the abutters affected by the no parking restriction to the December 8 Safety Committee Meeting. Prior to that meeting, the City Manager will review the ordinance for the current status of no parking in that area for further comment.

- School & Willard Street 4-way Stop Sign Request. The Police Department reviewed this congested multi-angled intersection. Chief Morency does not favor four-way stop signs since they often create more confusion. There is a defunct railroad right-of-way where people park and there is brush blocking the view. The City Manager will review if the City has the right to cut brush and enforce a no parking zone there. If the railroad was active, people would not park there and it would eliminate the need for a no parking ordinance on the northeast side of the intersection.

- Traffic Control. Chief Morency reported he had problems with construction projects and traffic control. Research confirmed the Police Department lacks authority given to them through current ordinances to oversee traffic control at construction sites. The Safety Committee recommends a draft ordinance for traffic control be further developed and brought to Council for their review.

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to accept/file the Safety Committee Report. So moved, the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Resolution 2014-24 Authorizing an application for a Community Development Block Grant in an amount up to Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) to be Sub-Granted to Affordable Housing, Education and Development, Inc. (AHEAD) toward the cost of building and energy improvements at Northern Lights Housing, which provides affordable, senior housing units for low and moderate income persons. (1st read)

Councilor Theberge moved with a second by Councilor Remillard to table the resolution and schedule a public hearing on December 1, 2014. So moved, the motion carried.

3. City Manager's Report

The November 11 issue of the Berlin Daily Sun had an article about the upgrade to the waste water treatment plant. Attached (in case you missed it). Also relating to Waste Water, PSNH sent a rebate check totaling \$39,868.01 on the installation of energy efficient equipment, the screw press, at the treatment plant.

Public Works has a more sophisticated work order system. We will be able to generate work orders, track their progress and report on what has been done. The system utilizes PeopleForms from PeopleGis. We will plan to show you the Public Works system at a future Council Meeting once the department has had some time to work out any bugs. An example of the report generated by the system is attached.

We also plan to make use of the system in other departments for data collection. Several departments participated in training on November 4th and 5th.

Attached is a synopsis of the State's inspection of the City's bridges. The only red listed bridge is Hillside Avenue over the Dead River. The City has a completed design for the replacement of this bridge that was done by HEB. Dependent on funding, we may defer replacement until after both the Hutchins St. and Rte. 16 projects are completed.

We welcome Michel Salek to the Public Works Department and Jonathan Leveille to the Fire Department as new employees.

Berlin Station has currently put their small scale biomass chipping plans on hold. Should they decide to pursue chipping in the future they will re-engage the City.

Primex has notified us that our 2015 Unemployment Compensation contribution will be 31.8% less than it was in 2014 resulting in a \$2,988 reduction.

Health Trust has provided the City with the Guaranteed Maximum Rates, GMR for the health plans it administers for the City. The overall member GMR increase for Health Trust municipal members is 3.1%. The City's GMR increase is 1.1%.

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.

Regarding Berlin Station and their small scale chipping plans, Councilor Remillard asked if they need to come back to the City no matter what size? The City Manager replied that is correct. Councilor Remillard remarked about the new purchase orders in place for Public Works which was talked about with Pat MacQueen and new computers which is exciting and long overdue.

4. Mayor's Report

Mayor Grenier publicly thanked Barbara Tetrault of the Berlin Daily Sun on the story she ran featuring the Pollution Control Plant. The article was educational for the public while being factual without being boring. The City was well represented and he thanked her for the nice story.

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

5. Public Comments – No Comments

6. Council Comments – No Comments

7. Adjournment: There being no further business before the Mayor and Council, 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 8:32 p.m.

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