

PUBLIC HEARING – MARCH 2, 2015

Mayor Grenier opened the duly advertised public hearing at approximately 7:30 p.m. to discuss the following subject matter:

Resolution 2015-09 Authorize the Transfer of Funds for a Vac Sewer Jet Purchase - No Comments

There being no one wishing to speak for or against the subject matter at this time, Mayor Grenier declared the Public Hearing portion of the Meeting closed at approximately 7:30 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, March 2, 2015

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:31 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. The pledge of allegiance to the flag preceded roll call. Present: Councilors Remillard, Otis, Morgan Allain, Gentili, Rozek, Nelson and Theberge. Councilor Higbee was absent. Also present: City Manager James Wheeler and Susan Tremblay, Pam Laflamme, Barbara Tetreault and citizens.

Minutes, Previous Meeting

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to accept the minutes of the February 16 Regular Meeting/WS. So moved, the motion carried.

Disbursements: Disbursement Summary Draft #1735 start date 2/15/2015 end date 3/2/2015 for a total cash disbursement of \$992,819.42. 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

Janet Tremblay, 812 Second Avenue, said there recently was a problem in her neighborhood with freezing pipes and there was lots of water in her backyard. It was later determined that it actually was a sewer pipe that broke. The property where the line broke is owned by Northern Edge Realty and she called them to let them know there was a problem and asked to have it fixed. The water is still running and it is sewer water so we need to have it fixed. Janet went to Berlin Water Works and they said they needed to let the water run.

Mayor Grenier asked the City Manager to get together with the Public Works Director and Berlin Water Works to see what needs to be done to get this fixed. The City Manager confirmed he will do that and report back to Council.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Council Committee Reports – No Reports
2. Resolution 2015-09 Authorizing the transfer of capital funds, \$75,236.83 from Cost Replacement and \$74,127.17 from Sanitary Line Replacement, in accordance with Sec. 21a of the City Charter, and in addition to \$140,000 appropriated for the purchase of a Vac Sewer Jet for a total budget amount of \$289,364.00. (tabled 2/16/15) Resolved by the City Council of the City of Berlin as Follows:
 - Whereas, the City Council authorized the purchase of a Vac Sewer Jet at their meeting of February 2 2015; and
 - Whereas, funding is available from the following segregated and capital accounts:

Account #	Title	Amount
60-480-438-0016	CI Vac Truck Lease Purchase	\$70,000.
60-495-438-0016	SF Vac Truck Lease Purchase	\$70,000.
60-495-995-0103	Cost Replacement	\$75,236.83
60-480-438-0001	CI Sanitary Line Replacement	\$74,127.17
TOTAL		\$289,364.00

Now therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Berlin, NH, that the transfer of capital funds \$75,236.83 from Cost Replacement and \$74,127.17 from Sanitary Line Replacement is hereby authorized in accordance with Sec.21a of the City Charter and in addition to \$140,000 appropriated for the purchase of a Vac Sewer Jet for a total appropriation of \$289,364. 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. Roll call resulted in unanimous affirmative votes of Council including Mayor Grenier who declared the resolution now passed.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Resolution 2015-10 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 2016. (1st read)

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

4. Morning Lane to the WMCC Crosswalk Request

Linda Vaillancourt, a Riverside Drive resident, requests that Council consider placing a crosswalk at Morning Lane to cross over to the parking lot where foot traffic travels more safely to access the sidewalk located at the southern end of the WMCC driveway. This would be a safety element due to the fact that the school has children from their child care facility attempting to cross at this location and this is a heavily traveled route.

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

Councilor Remillard contacted Ms. Vaillancourt to let her know they would look into the matter but she thinks the street might be Twitchell Lane not Morning Lane but the committee will check it out.

Councilor Theberge said he was originally contacted by Mr. Vaillancourt and he told him to contact the Safety Committee for their review.

5. City Manager's Report

- I. Berlin EMS has submitted their annual report and financials to the City. Their call volume rose from 1506 calls in 2013 to 1708 calls in 2014. They advised that they will likely seek a rate adjustment in the spring to best capture Medicare revenues based on the most current rates.
- II. March starts a new round of energy savings from our electric supplier with a rate of 6.999 cents per KWh from March through November.
- III. On Tuesday February 24th, Eversource Energy presented the City a ceremonial check for \$72,100.51. This amount represents the total amount paid to the City for the installation of energy efficient equipment at the Wastewater Treatment Facility. Attached is Eversource's Green Page which estimates energy savings as well as reductions in greenhouse gas and acid rain contaminants.
- IV. The Recreation Dept. has been notified by the USDA that their pre-application for a \$2,400 grant to be used for the construction of playground structures has been approved. A final decision on this grant is expected sometime this Month.

- V. Ms. Elaine Hardie, a former Berlin High Student, has requested that a college scholarship be set up in her name for Berlin High School Students. She is donating \$10,000 for the fund and suggests that scholarships be given in an amount of \$1,000 annually. The scholarship will be for students who are in the top 25% of their class and who have studied and will continue to study a western language, preferably French.
- VI. The Androscoggin Valley Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner and Meeting will be held this Friday March 6th beginning at 5:00 PM at the Town and County Inn. Governor Hassan is expected to attend.
- VII. The City Manager's budget is available on the web site at http://www.berlinnh.gov/Pages/BerlinNH_Manager/cmbudget

Legislative Items:

- House will vote on HB 192 on Wednesday March 4, 2015. HB 192 prohibits use of DRA 83-f utility values.
- House will vote on HB 224 on Wednesday March 4, 2015. HB 224 is the Pollution Control Exemption repeal legislation.

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.

6. Mayor's Report - Appointment: Board of Assessors.

Robert Goddard submitted a letter of interest to serve another term on the Board of Assessors. Mayor Grenier was happy to nominate Mr. Goddard to serve another three year term on the Board of Assessors with a new term set to expire March 2018.

Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Theberge to accept the Mayor's nomination of Robert Goddard for another three year term on the Board of Assessors. So moved, the motion carried.

7. Public Comments – No Comments

8. Council Comments

Councilor Theberge, who is on the Committee on Accounts & Claims, noticed the bill from Time Warner Cable. He suggested that the City look for phone and internet service to save money for the city. The Company he works for is on Time Warner. Internet is fast and they experience no phone problems.

Jim replied he will look into an entire communications package and make a recommendation to Council.

City Development Director, Pam Laflamme said it is already in the works and we are looking at it for internet in the upcoming budget.

9. Adjournment: There being no further business before the Mayor and Council, 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 7:52 p.m.

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