

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, March 20, 2017

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:50 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, Higbee, Rozek, Nelson and Theberge. Also present: Jim Wheeler, Susan Tremblay, Corrine Cascadden and Barbara Tetreault

Minutes, Previous Meeting

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to accept the minutes of the March 6th Regular Meeting/Work Session, the March 8th Budget Session and the March 13th Work/Budget Session. So moved, the motion carried.

Disbursements:

Disbursement Summary Draft #1785 start date 3/7/2017 end date 3/20/2017 for a total cash disbursement of \$1,037,116.31. 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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Council Committee Reports

NEW BUSINESS

2. Communication – Bob Lord

To the Mayor and City Council of Berlin,
March 9, 2017

A while back we lost Tony Urban, and this past week Maurice Wheeler passed away. Both these men were instrumental in the realization of a dream to have a first-class Track and Field facility in Berlin. When I began coaching in Berlin in the Spring of 1986, Steve Enman and I ran our one home meet of the season on Memorial Field with a 300 meter track painted on grass. It was confusing and we had a hard time keeping tracks of laps, especially when we had runners like the Bergeron-Rasmussen duo lapping the field a couple of times. In the late 80's a plan for a track was drawn up, politicians showed up for a ground-breaking ceremony, and things stood still for a while. In stepped Maurice and with volunteers a stone dust track was literally carved out of a mountainside. I remember seeing Maurice there many evenings and Saturdays working and surveying.

For the next several years, we ran on stone dust and when we had home meets, the rec department would paint the lanes. One day, I ran into Tony Urban and discussed the track and possibly trying to get it paved and rubberized. He told me he would look into it. A few days later Tony had me meet him at the track and along with Laura, we discussed where the pits would go, along with the discus and shotput circles. I really didn't think at the time that it would really happen, but anyone who knew Tony knows that he was a doer and knew how to get people involved. He also was one who would not take "no" for an answer. He enlisted Mayor Grenier to find funding and got hold of Pike Paving and an outfit to rubberize and line the track, along with installing the pits and throwing circles. He wheeled and dealt on prices, along with mats, hurdles and fencing, and in the end got it done for \$200,000. It was a huge undertaking but got done.

I am asking that the Mayor and Council consider honoring these two men by dedicating the track to them for the work they did in making a dream come true. We now have had the opportunity to train and compete on the most picturesque track in the whole state. I bet that close to two thousand young athletes have benefited from this facility along with countless walkers and opponents. I want anyone who uses or visits that facility to know that Maurice and Tony, along with many volunteers were the ones who brought this to fruition. The field honors Mike Gaydo, and having the track surrounding that field being known as the Wheeler-Urban oval would be a fitting tribute. I also want the council to consider resurfacing the rubber surface in the near future, as use and weather wear it down, and the work Maurice, Tony, and many others did needs to be preserved for future generations of kids to enjoy and see their athletic dreams realized. Every time I step out on that track, coaching, I appreciate those who worked on the buildings and ground improvements all us coaches enjoy.

My final request is to get that "Hockey Town USA" banner up. With excellent high school teams, the River Drivers, and Berlin's storied hockey history, it is time to bring back the pride, because Berlin is Hockey Town USA. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully, Bob Lord

Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Councilor Higbee to accept the communication from Mr. Lord, send notification that the correspondence was received to Mr. Lord, and place it on file. Mayor Grenier opened the floor for discussion. Councilor Theberge asked what will happen to the letter and whether or not anything will be done if the motion as presented passed. Councilor Rozek stated that it would simply be placed on file and no further action will take place. Mayor Grenier stated that he would like to have the correspondence remanded to the Board of Education for their attention. Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Councilor Nelson to amend his motion to forward the communication from Mr. Lord to the Board of Education. So moved, the motion passed.

3. City Manager's Report

1. A copy of the Berlin EMS annual report is attached for your review.
2. The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department honored Eric Kaminsky with a Resolution thanking him for his help in facilitating the moose research management project. A copy of the resolution is attached and we congratulate Mr. Kaminsky for this recognition and a job well done.
3. Eversource has notified the City that they will be doing work in the area to upgrade the infrastructure to avoid interruptions in service during severe weather. This work is part of the line storm hardening/ system resiliency work being performed throughout the transmission system to improve reliability. The work will begin as early as February, weather dependent, and continue through May.
4. The first LED street light was put up on Friday 2/17 at the corner of Abenaki and Main Streets. This is an example of what the rest of the lights on the Rte. 16 project will look like.
5. The City welcomes Derek Patry to the Fire Department as a new firefighter. FF Patry joined the department earlier this month.
6. We've been notified by NHDES of an application for an alteration of terrain permit from North Country Growers Greenhouse Facility. The application requests a permit to disturb 1,973,925 square feet at the property on East Milan Road. Pursuant to RSA483-B, the City has also been notified that the company applied for a shoreland permit. The company is going to the Planning Board for Site Plan approval on Tuesday, March 21st which is the rescheduled date from last week's winter storm.
7. By a very strong vote of 267-83, the House passed HB 413, and has now moved on to the House Finance Committee. HB 413 where it has been retained awaiting revenue projections. The bill reinstates a partial state retirement contribution for teachers, police officers, and firefighters at 15% of the total cost. The state contributed 35% of these costs for decades until the legislature repealed the cost-sharing provision in 2012.

8. HB 170 has implications for all City Boards and Commissions. It states that if minutes and notices are posted on the public body's Internet website, then they shall be posted on such website consistently for all subsequent meetings.
9. This year's rabies clinic will be held on Saturday, April 1st, from 1:00pm to 4:00pm, at the Recreation Department on First Avenue. Dog licenses will be available to purchase on site.
10. Bids were opened for the Highland Park Avenue land sale on Thursday, March 16th. The winning bid was \$20,010.00 from Robert Goddard. We will now take steps to collect the full amount of the bid, prepare and register a quitclaim deed and fully complete the sale.
11. Christine Frost from the Northern Borders Commission sent the attached e-mail to us, as a NB grant recipient, stating that the President's budget calls for elimination of Northern Border Regional Commission funding in fiscal year 2018. As such, they fully anticipate that our grant will be properly monitored, administered and that reimbursements will be received in a timely manner regardless of whether NBRC staff continues. All funding that has been obligated at the federal level is not in any jeopardy.
12. The Public Works, Fire and Police activity reports are attached.

Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Councilor Higbee to accept the City Manager's report as presented. So moved, the motion carried.

4. Mayor's Report

Mayor Grenier stated that he had a reappointment nomination for Kem Rozek for the Board of Assessors for a three year term to expire on March 31, 2020.

Councilor Theberge moved with a second from Councilor Nelson to accept the Mayor's nomination for Kem Rozek as a member of the Board of Assessors, with a term to expire on March 31, 2020. So moved, the motion carried with a vote of 8-0-1, Councilor Rozek abstained.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

6. Council Comments

Councilor Rozek stated that he would like to discuss the ATV trail/Urban Compact as they relate to the ATV Trail System and access to the Jericho State Park Road from Route 110. The matter will be placed on the April 10 work session agenda.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Mayor and Council, Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Morgan Allain to adjourn the regular meeting. So moved, the motion carried and Mayor Grenier declared the regular meeting adjourned at approximately 8:07 P.M.

A True Record, Attest:

Elaine Riendeau
City Clerk