

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, April 3, 2017

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:32 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, Theberge and Gentili. Also present: James Wheeler, Susan Tremblay and Barbara Tetreault

Minutes, Previous Meeting

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to accept the minutes of the March 20 Regular Meeting/Work Session, March 22 Budget Meeting as well as the March 27 Work Session/Budget Meeting. So moved, the motion carried.

Disbursements:

Disbursement Summary Draft #1786 start date 03/21/2017 end date 04/03/2017 for a total cash disbursement of \$858,841.32. 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 – Councilor Rozek noted that the Traffic Safety Committee will be meeting on Monday, April 10th at 5:30 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Resolution 2017-05 Authorizing \$12,000 Grant for Feasibility Study for City Hall Elevator (1st read)

Councilor Theberge moved with a second by Councilor Higbee to table the resolution and schedule a public hearing on April 17, 2017. So moved, the motion carried.

3. Resolution 2017-06 Authorizing \$14,000 Grant for Trailhead Parking at Mt. Forist (1st read)

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Morgan Allain to table the resolution and schedule a public hearing on April 17, 2017. So moved, the motion carried.

4. Resolution 2017-07 Accepting a Donation of Land from Richard Tremaine (1st read)

Councilor Nelson moved with a second by Councilor Higbee to table the resolution and schedule a public hearing on April 17, 2017. So moved, the motion carried.

5. Communication - Lise Barrette re: Hillside Avenue Parking

Traffic Safety Committee
City Hall, 168 Main St, Berlin

To Whom It May Concern,

Attached is a photo of what vehicles see when they are going south on Willard Street where it crosses with Hillside Avenue. As you can see, I have to creep out onto Hillside each time I go by in order to see any

vehicles coming down Hillside Ave. There have been a few times where people come down Hillside quite fast and by the time I've see them I am already out half way into Hillside Ave. Considering this is a highly traveled corner due to school and the funeral parlor, I feel something needs to be done as I'm sure I'm not the only one who has trouble pulling out from that corner. If a sign could be put up, 'No Parking Here to Corner', or a parking space be removed, I think it could be helpful.

Lise Barrette
530 Willard Street
Berlin, NH

Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Higbee to accept and acknowledge Ms. Barrette's communication and that it be remanded to the Traffic Safety Committee for its review on April 10th meeting. So moved, the motion carried.

6. City Manager's Report

1. The yearly Rabies Clinic was held on Saturday, April 1st at the Recreation Center for cats and dogs. I'd like to thank Elaine Riendeau and Lise Barrette who gave up a Saturday afternoon to register 75 dogs.
2. The annual Eggstravaganza will be held Saturday, April 8th beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the Recreation Center. This event is an Easter Egg Hunt for children ages 2 to 10. The event is free; however donations are always accepted.
3. The Public Works Department has taken delivery on its new JCB backhoe loader.
4. Paul Croteau Settlement Update - The settlement agreement between the City & Paul Croteau was finalized on February 24, 2017. See attached. The agreement covers all three of his properties on Route 110 and is structured to bring all three back into compliance with the City's Zoning Ordinance. Mr. Croteau met with Michel Salek & Pam Laflamme last week to go over the timeline in the agreement to keep it moving and on track. Mr. Croteau is aware he has several things that need his careful attention and he is currently working with staff to complete these items.
5. David Walker, Plant Manager at Burgess Biopower, notified us of their plan for their annual spring outage. The outage is expected to last through Sunday April 9th. The plant is expected to go back on-line early Monday morning. Today they are conducting vacuuming and de-clinkering operations (which may contribute some noise).
6. The 2016 Tax Liening process was completed by the Finance and Tax Collection Office on March 31, 2017. The total lien amount for 2016 is \$722,668.59. The last 4 years amounts were as follows:

2013 Lien	\$795,496.96
2014 Lien	\$830,132.69
2015 Lien	\$713,700.89
2016 Lien	\$722,668.59

7. Vachon and Clukay has notified us that they have completed the FY2016 municipal audit. They will be scheduled at an upcoming City Council Meeting to review the audit.
8. On Tuesday March 28th, the House Finance Committee recommended the biennial budget plan contained in HB 1 and HB 2. The plan will be voted upon by the full House on Wednesday, April 5th. The budget contains \$25,000,000 of municipal aid for property tax relief. If this budget is approved the City of Berlin is estimated to receive an amount of \$196,459 (see attached distribution sheet provided by the NHMA).

In addition, the budget plan calls for an increase the Highway Block program which would increase the City's allocation by an estimated \$90,000.

City Manager Wheeler also noted that on Monday, April 17th there will be a joint meeting (non-meeting) with the Town of Gorham Selectmen along with legal counsel at 6:00 pm.

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.

7. Mayor's Report

a. Proclamation – Recognition for National Service

WHEREAS, service to others is a hallmark of the American character, and central to how we meet our challenges; and

WHEREAS, the nation's counties/cities are increasingly turning to national service and volunteerism as a cost-effective strategy to meet their needs; and

WHEREAS, national service expands economic opportunity by creating more sustainable, resilient communities and providing education, career skills, and leadership abilities for those who serve; and

WHEREAS, RSVP participants demonstrate commitment, dedication, and patriotism by making an intensive commitment to service, a commitment that remains with them in their future endeavors; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Paul Grenier, Mayor of the City of Berlin, NH, do hereby proclaim April 4, 2017, as National Service Recognition Day, and encourage residents to recognize the positive impact of RSVP volunteers in our community; to thank those who serve; and to find ways to give back to their communities.

To the RSVP volunteers who provide service to local agencies and to the community, a Heartfelt Thank You.

Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Higbee to accept the Mayor's report and place it on file. So moved, the motion carried.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS - There were none.

9. Council Comments – There were none.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Mayor and Council, Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Theberge to adjourn the regular meeting. So moved, the motion carried and Mayor Grenier declared the regular meeting adjourned at approximately 8:05 P.M.

A True Record, Attest:

Elaine Riendeau
City Clerk