

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, July 6, 2020

Public Hearing

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 7:32 pm for Resolution 2020-14 Library Grant \$10,000. There were no public comments. Mayor Grenier closed the Public Hearing at 7:33 pm.

Regular Meeting

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 8:50 p.m. via Zoom, pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, Section 8 and Emergency Order #12, Section 3.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Grenier, Councilors Remillard, Otis, Eastman, Higbee, Rozek, and Theberge

Absent: Councilor Morgan and Councilor Berthiaume

Also present: James Wheeler, Susan Tremblay, Pamela Laflamme, Shelli Fortin, James Watkins, Ben Hall, and Barbara Tetreault, Berlin Daily Sun.

c. Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to accept the minutes of the June 15, 2020 Regular Meeting and Work Session. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier - yes

Disbursements:

There was no Disbursement Report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no Public Comments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Council Committee Reports

There were no Council Committee Reports.

2. Resolution 2020-14 Library Grant \$10,000 (tabled 6/15/2020)

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty

A RESOLUTION authorizing an application to the New Hampshire Humanities CARES Grant #CARES-55 for \$10,000.00 and, upon approval, appropriating these funds to the FY2020 Berlin Public Library Budget.

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Berlin as Follows:

Whereas, the Berlin Public Library's has a need to revise its processes to ensure continued service to the public in light of CDC guidelines relative to COVID-19; and

Whereas, since public access to the interior of the library building is limited to a designated book pick-up/return area and a process for cleaning and sanitizing has been developed; and

Whereas the use of downloadable books has increased and the cost of this service is use-driven, and we anticipate the cost of the service to increase upon renewal; and

Whereas, the Library will adapt its gated, outdoor area for increased open- air reading and remote Internet work space and to do so, they will need to purchase furniture, tablets, laptops, additional WIFI capacity and hand sanitizing equipment.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Berlin, NH that an application to the NH Humanities CARES Grant is hereby authorized. Upon approval of the grant, \$10,000.00 shall be appropriated to the FY 2020 Berlin Public Library budget for the purpose of the grant.

Be it further resolved that the City of Berlin accepts the terms of the grant and grant agreement as presented and that the City Manager is authorized to do all things necessary to effectuate the grant.

This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after passage.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to remove this item from the table. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to read Resolution 2020-14 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier - yes

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to read Resolution 2020-14 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier - yes

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee that Resolution 2020-14 be passed. So moved, the motion passed by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier - yes

NEW BUSINESS

3. Resolution 2020-15 Airport CARES Grant \$30,000 (1st read)

Councilor Higbee moved, with a second by Councilor Otis to table the Resolution and schedule a public hearing for July 20, 2020. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

4. Resolution 2020-16 Construction Loan Financing (1st read)

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee to table the Resolution and schedule a public hearing for July 20, 2020. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

5. City Manager's Report

There was no City Manager's Report.

6. Mayor's Report

a. Letter from Randolph Board of Selectmen

During these difficult times Coos County has been fortunate with little to no cases of COVID due to the diligence of our residents, businesses and guidelines provided by the Town Fathers and Health Officials.

As businesses are slowly opening within the North Country and the tourists trade resumes, we think it is important to stress or reissue the guidelines set down in March. Outdoor activities will resume, bringing more tourists to our restaurants, grocery stores and gas pumps. As hospitality industry will begin to resume. The Randolph Board of

Selectmen would support Berlin in requiring, businesses to ask customers to social distance and wear masks when social distancing is not possible.

We in the North Country have been very fortunate and hope to remain so, by encouraging the need to maintain diligence of face masks, and hygiene awareness as the tourist's season gets here.

Regards,

Michele Cormier, Co-Chair
Lauren Bradley, Co-Chair
John Turner, Selectmen

Board of Selectmen
Town of Randolph

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to place the letter from the Randolph Selectmen on file and to send a letter to each business in Berlin asking that they strongly encourage customers to wear face masks. Councilor Remillard stated it was up to the business owner whether they would require masks.

City Manager Wheeler noted that the Governor has already issued guidelines and that in some cases businesses are required to have customers wear masks.

So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – no, Eastman – yes, Grenier – no

b. Letter from Ellen King

Hello Shelli, Mayor Grenier and Council,

I went to the two cemeteries this morning and was upset to see they were mowing and there was NO growing grass, it is burned because of the drought we are experiencing, they were mowing dirt. This is a shame, it is a waste of our money!!! We could use some of that money to repair the New City Cemetery where there are caskets popping out of the ground and headstones and monuments toppling over.

I have talked to Councilor Lucie Remillard about the caskets and headstones, which was 2 years ago and I researched it myself and found out that the cemeteries years ago were filled with bark which is breaking down. I believe it was brought up at a council meeting this spring that a someone was researching it. How long does it take, my Lord this is supposed to be these peoples final resting place, they and their families PAID for their final resting place to be taken care of years!!

I find it astonishing that a small town north of us can get help with their cemetery from the state and we can't or won't go for help from the state.

I have addressed this to you and the Mayor and Council and if you would share this I would appreciate it.

Thank You
Ellen King
107 Jericho Rd
Berlin, NH

City Clerk Shelli Fortin advised the Council that there was a plan in place to address the issues at the New City Cemetery; to include moving the stones, bringing in fill, resetting the stones, and re-seeding. Fortin advised that this will take time and money, both of which are limited, so they will start with a small section of the cemetery and continue from there.

c. BIDPA Appointments

Mayor Grenier and City Council:

The terms of three BIDPA board members will expire at the end of July. All of these board members wish to serve another three year term. BIDPA has a solid group of board members and these individuals are an integral part of the board. The board supports their continued involvement with the BIDPA if the Mayor & Council agree.

- Peter Higbee – Three-year term to run until July 31, 2023.
- Robert Hill – Three-year term to run until July 31, 2023.
- Paul Robitaille – Three-year term to run until July 31, 2023. Paul was recently appointed to the BIDPA board but his term was set to run until February, 2023. BIDPA appointments all expire during the month of July so we would like to update his appointment to be in line with the rest of the board members.

Sincerely,

Pamela E. Laflamme
Community Development Director

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to accept the Mayor's nomination of Peter Higbee, Robert Hill, and Paul Robitaille to the BIDPA board with terms to expire July 31, 2023. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no Public Comments.

8. Council Comments

There were no Council Comments.

9. Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Rozek, seconded by Councilor Higbee, the Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 pm. So moved, the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

A True Record, Attest:

Shelli Fortin
City Clerk

Note: Minutes are unofficial until they have been accepted by the Council by motion.