

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, May 3, 2021

Regular Meeting

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:26 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, Morgan, Eastman, Higbee, Rozek, Berthiaume, and Theberge
Absent: None

Also present: James Wheeler, Pamela Laflamme, Deputy Chief Daniel Buteau, Holly Larsen, Ann Brungot, Barbara Tetreault, Berlin Daily Sun

c. Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to accept the minutes of the April 19, 2021 Regular Meeting and Work Session and April 26, 2021 Work Session. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee – yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier - yes

Disbursements:

Disbursement Summary Draft #1886 start date 04/20/2021 end date 05/03/2021 for a total cash disbursement of \$1,338,799.69. Councilor Theberge moved with a second by Councilor Morgan to accept the disbursement summary and pay all bills as recommended by the Committee on Accounts/Claims. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee - yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier - yes

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Council Committee Reports

There were no Council Committee Reports.

2. Resolution 2021-13 Night Vision 2022 (tabled 4/19/2021)

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty One

A RESOLUTION authorizing the Berlin Police Commission to apply for and accept grant funds from the NH Department of Safety under the 2020 Homeland Security Grant Program - LETPA Night Vision and appropriating said funds to the Police Department for the purpose of the grant.

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

WHEREAS Coos County encompasses 1,794 square miles, is comprised of many small towns and communities, has a population of approximately 32,000 people, and is home to several critical infrastructures, e.g., schools, prison(s), and hospital.

WHEREAS; night vision technology enhances screening, search, detection, threat assessment, and discontinuation of threat capabilities, which is essential in preventing threatened or actual acts of terrorism.

WHEREAS; night vision would provide the department with the ability to actively and passively surveil and search a scene or incident in all conditions, which without this technology is not possible; and

WHEREAS; the departments capability to perform the above necessary tasks, specifically, the important tasks of navigation, surveillance, observation, and the identification of threat and not-threat subjects in low light conditions they are required to operate in routinely; and

WHEREAS the department is called upon to enter areas of danger; and

WHEREAS night vision equipment is designed to assist in all of the aforementioned situations as well as; and

WHEREAS said equipment would render the department safely and effectively mission ready and better equipped to assisting their partner communities and the State of New Hampshire; and

WHEREAS use of such specialized equipment increases the ability of the department to safely resolve situations without injury or loss of life and will enhance agency interoperability, especially in response to a large-scale event or disaster; and

WHEREAS: night vision will help mitigate risk; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Berlin, NH, that the Berlin Police Commission is authorized to apply for and accept funds from the NH Department of Safety for the 2020 Homeland Security Grant Program - LETPA Night Vision for the purchase of night vision equipment; to be appropriated to the Berlin Police Department FY 2022 Budget for the purpose of effectuating said grant.

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

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

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to read Resolution 2021-13 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee – yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume- yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier - yes

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to read Resolution 2021-13 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee – yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier - yes

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan that Resolution 2021-13 be passed.

Councilor Theberge asked about the R included on the new copy and was advised it was a typo.

So moved, the motion passed by roll call vote. Higbee – yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

NEW BUSINESS

3. Resolution 2021-14 Library Summer Learning Grant (1st read)

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to table the Resolution and schedule a public hearing for May 17, 2021. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume- yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

4. City Manager's Report

1. Oil and Propane Bids were opened on Thursday, 4/29/21. We received bids from Irving and CN Brown. CN Brown was awarded the bid at bulk price of \$2.129/gallon and local price of \$2.259/gallon for fuel oil and fixed price of \$1.309/gallon for propane. Irving's bid was at bulk price of \$2.231/gallon

and local price of \$2.26/gallon for fuel oil and fixed price of \$1.578/gallon for propane. I have reached out to departments to determine if any adjustment need to be made to their FY22 fuel pricing.

2. Bids were opened for work on the Mason Street Bridge on 4/29/21. The single bidder, R.M. Piper Construction bid in the amount of \$564,385. As you will recall, the estimate for the work was \$300,000. I will be evaluating options with HEB before bringing any recommendation to the City Council.
3. On Tuesday 4/27/21, a preconstruction meeting took place with representatives of Wright-Pierce, Cross Construction and the City for the Phase 2 Contract 1 I&I Project. Activity on the project will start within the next few weeks. Notices have been sent to property owners who may require plumbing modifications.
4. First dates for meetings pertaining to the required update of the Berlin Hazard Mitigation Plan are now being considered. Mapping, Planning and Solutions from Whitefield will facilitate the multi-agency effort and produce the updated plan. The update will be 80% funded through a reimbursement grant from NH Homeland Security. The total effort is expected to cost \$12,499.69. This effort is being coordinated through Chief Jay Watkins.

City Manager Wheeler advised the two loaders that were ordered from Nortrax were received last week at Public Works. They now have seven loaders.

Councilor Rozek moved, with a second from Councilor Morgan, to accept the City Manager's Report and place it on file.

Councilor Eastman asked how many notices were sent out for the I&I project. City Manager Wheeler advised there were 10-12 easements they did not receive responses from. The first batch was about 30, and another batch was just sent out with about 15.

So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee – yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

5. Mayor's Report

a. Letter from Claude Pigeon ref Engineer of Record, Berlin Airport

Dear Mr. Mayor and council members,

I am writing as a lifelong citizen of Berlin to express my opinion in the above referenced matter. While I understand the need to comply with the FAA's requirements and I applaud your efforts to assure the most prudent use our resources AND avoid any semblance misuse, I think there are other significant concepts that must weigh heavily in your deliberations.

My first point is that Jay Poulin has personally donated many hours of his time, as well as staff time, to a variety of projects in Berlin, including the Nansen Ski Jump, the AVH Walk of Life and other notable projects. The value of his contributions is considerable and must surely be well into the 6 figures.

In addition to contributing engineering time, Jay Poulin sits on several local boards and continues to contribute his time and energy to the wellbeing of this community.

Jay is the continuation of a legacy of civic consciousness established by other members of his family.

Another significant point to consider is that any monies spent on engineering with HEB will bounce around this community many times in the form of property taxes, groceries, fuel, and personal expenses of all sorts. Any monies spent on other contenders will leave this community immediately... When I worked for the Community Development Dept. a lifetime ago, we wrote a local bid preference percentage into our bid packages and requests for services. I

do not remember the exact percentage, but it gave local firms an advantage and recognized the benefit of keeping money local.

In closing, I will say that gratitude, recognition, and appreciation are noble concepts and are synonymous with favoritism. It's just a difference of context. We are the kind of community that recognizes civic responsibility and outstanding leadership. We are grateful to those who work tirelessly for our greater benefit. We support our own. I hope you will keep these principles in mind in your deliberations.

Respectfully

Claude Pigeon

Councilor Rozek asked if the other contractors were allowed to send a letter to the City.

Councilor Rozek moved, with a second from Councilor Berthiaume, to approve the Mayor's report and place it on file.

Mayor Grenier advised Councilor Rozek that he has insulted the integrity of a citizen to take part in the operation of government. Mayor Grenier advised that Councilor Rozek owed Mr. Pigeon an apology.

So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee – yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

7. Council Comments

Councilor Eastman advised that several people have asked about city owned properties that may be available to sell. City Manager Wheeler advised that he and Pamela Laflamme have been working on the few that are left, which are not in great shape. Laflamme advised that most have been recommended by the Health and Code offices to demolish. Laflamme advised there might be 2 or 3 properties that may be able to be sold. Councilor Remillard asked for a list for next week and Laflamme advised they are working on the report.

8. Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Rozek, seconded by Councilor Morgan, the Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 pm. So moved, the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Higbee – yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – 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.