

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, August 2, 2021

Regular Meeting

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:36 p.m.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Roll Call

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

Absent: Councilors Remillard and Morgan

Also present: City Manager James Wheeler, Community Development Director Pamela Laflamme, City Clerk Shelli Fortin, and William Carroll, Berlin Daily Sun.

c. Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to accept the minutes of the July 6, 2021 Regular Meeting and Work Session. So moved, the motion passed.

Disbursements:

Disbursement Summary Draft #1893 start date 07/20/2021 end date 08/02/2021 for a total cash disbursement of \$1,195,026.07. Councilor Theberge moved with a second by Councilor Berthiaume to accept the disbursement summary and pay all bills as recommended by the Committee on Accounts/Claims. So moved, the motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Council Committee Reports

There were no Council Committee Reports.

NEW BUSINESS

2. City Manager's Report

1. The EMS Call Report for the Month of January 2021 through June 2021 is attached.
2. The Fire Department Incident Report for the Month of July is attached.
3. In a meeting with Richard Rosen of North Country Growers last week, he indicated that they plan to begin construction activities on site within the next few weeks.
4. I'd like to thank the Berlin Police Dept. and Assistant Director of Public Works, Mark Lapointe, for their help in identifying and addressing items deposited in the public right of way. Just today we had a claim of full blown automotive mechanical and body work being done in a public street (the 2nd in as many weeks), an unregistered camper and an illegal driveway access in the street.
5. If you haven't visited the Library recently, I encourage you to contact Head Librarian Ann Brungot for a tour of changes they have made on the inside of the library. They have reorganized the main floor such that it is very welcoming and highly functional. You will also want to visit the outside location at Kelly Park. This location is a great asset with available wifi.
6. Councilor Joe Kenney and NHDOT have scheduled this fall's GACIT Hearing on September 23, 2021 at 9 AM in the City Hall Auditorium.
7. A pre-construction meeting for the Mason St. Bridge project has been scheduled for August 11th in advance of the Sept. drawdown of Smith Hydro.

8. Finance Director Holly Larsen completed the submission of the City's American Recovery Plan Application today in advance of the August 18th deadline.

City Manager Wheeler added that Covid cases have been popping up in the area and that the Covid workgroup met today and will meet again on Thursday.

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

Councilor Eastman asked about the location of the body work being done in the street and City Manager Wheeler advised the police will be handling the complaint. There may also be some Zoning issues.

Councilor Rozek noted that Councilor Kenney's name was spelled wrong in the report. The City Clerk will correct this.

So moved, the motion carried.

3. Mayor's Report

Mayor Grenier congratulated the America Legion Post 36 baseball team on their 19-2 record, and noted that they will be going to the State American Legion Tournament. This is the first year after a long absence that they have had a team, and the Mayor thanked DJ Johnson for coaching the team, and the American Legion Post 36 for funding the team to represent the area.

Mayor Grenier advised that he and Councilor Eastman met with the NH Army National Guard concerning their search and rescue helicopter. Councilor Eastman advised that since they do lots of search and rescue missions in this area, they are looking to build a hangar at the Berlin Airport. The City is considering giving two acres of land to the National Guard to build the hangar, which will allow them to do search and rescue and training in this area. The fuel sales from this arrangement could make the airport self-sufficient. Councilor Eastman also advised that they will utilize the National Guard Armory building, as they still own it, as a base of operations. The National Guard would also be willing to have schoolkids and organizations for tours and talks about the helicopter to generate interest in aviation. Mayor Grenier added that HEB also attended, and will be working with the National Guard on building specifications. The location of the building will depend on the proposed height.

Councilor Rozek moved, with a second from Councilor Theberge, to accept the Mayor's Report and place it on file. So moved, the motion carried.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

5. Council Comments

There were no Council comments.

6. Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Rozek, seconded by Councilor Higbee, the Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 pm. So moved, the motion carried.

A True Record, Attest:

Shellie Fortin
City Clerk

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