

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, November 15, 2021

Public Hearing

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 7:30 pm for Resolution 2021-24 Authorizing the Issuance of Refunding Bonds.

City Manager Wheeler explained the purpose of refunding the bonds, which is to save money on interest costs.

There were no public comments.

Mayor Grenier closed the Public Hearing at 7:32 pm.

Regular Meeting

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:32 p.m.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Grenier, Councilors Remillard, Otis, Eastman, Higbee, and Berthiaume

Absent: Councilors Rozek, Morgan, and Theberge

Also present: City Manager James Wheeler, Finance Director Holly Larsen, Community Development Director Pamela Laflamme, City Clerk Shelli Fortin, Chief Peter Morency, Superintendent Jon Goodreau, Karen Collins, Micah Bachner, Amber Bachner, Stuart Light, and William Carroll, Berlin Daily Sun.

c. Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to accept the minutes of the November 1, 2021 Regular Meeting and Work Session, and the Work Session of November 8, 2021. So moved, the motion passed.

Disbursements:

Disbursement Summary Draft #1900 start date 11/02/2021 end date 11/15/2021 for a total cash disbursement of \$1,008,446.30. Councilor Berthiaume moved with a second by Councilor Otis 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.

2. Resolution 2021-24 Authorizing the Issuance of Refunding Bonds Grant (tabled 11-1-2021)

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-One

A RESOLUTION Authorizing the Issuance of Refunding Bonds

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

WHEREAS, the City of Berlin, New Hampshire (the "Issuer") has issued (i) certain \$6,508,000 General Obligation Bonds through the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development ("USDA RD"), dated as of September 12, 2014, which mature on September 12, 2037 in the aggregate outstanding principal amount of

\$4,885,376; (ii) certain \$6,000,000 General Obligation Bonds through the USDA RD, dated as of September 12, 2014, which mature on September 12, 2037 in the aggregate outstanding principal amount of \$4,504,033; and (iii) certain General Obligation Bonds dated as of June 15, 2016, which mature July 15, 2036 in the aggregate outstanding principal amount of \$4,390,000 (collectively, the "Refunded Bonds"); and

WHEREAS, although the Refunded Bonds are not subject to redemption prior to their respective maturity dates, USDA RD has consented to the redemption of the Refunding Bonds prior to such maturity dates; and

WHEREAS, it appears likely that bonds issued today would have a net interest cost less than the net interest cost on the Refunded Bonds; and

WHEREAS, the Issuer may be able to realize debt service savings by issuing certain refunding bonds (the "Refunding Bonds"), the proceeds of which would be utilized to current refund or advance refund the Refunded Bonds and to pay certain other costs relating thereto, including any necessary redemption premium and the costs of issuing the Refunding Bonds;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Issuer, acting by and through its City Council, hereby authorizes the issuance of Refunding Bonds pursuant to the provisions of RSA 33:3-d, the proceeds of which shall be utilized to current refund or advance refund the Refunded Bonds, to pay the redemption premium, if any, applicable thereto, to pay any principal and interest coming due on the Refunded Bonds prior to any redemption date, and to pay the costs of issuance of the Refunding Bonds, including any costs of credit enhancement; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Treasurer, with the approval of the City Manager, is hereby authorized to finally approve the aforesaid refunding by entering into a Loan Agreement or Bond Purchase Agreement (the "Agreement") with the New Hampshire Municipal Bond Bank or such other bond purchaser or underwriter as they may deem appropriate in connection with the issuance of the Refunding Bonds to evidence the Issuer's approval of the terms and conditions of the Refunding Bonds; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Agreement and such other documents, if any, as shall be required in connection with the issuance of the Refunding Bonds shall be signed on behalf of the Issuer by the aforementioned individuals, each acting singly, or such other individuals as may be required by state law or as may be specified by bond counsel; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Issuer is authorized to enter into such other documents, to engage such other professionals (including a Financial Advisor, Escrow Agent, Verification Agent and Paying Agent), and to do such other things as are necessary to consummate the aforesaid refunding; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that all actions heretofore taken by the Issuer consistent with the foregoing are hereby confirmed, ratified and approved.

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.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to read Resolution 2021-24 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to read Resolution 2021-24 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, that Resolution 2021-24 be passed. So moved, the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

3. City Manager's Report

1. [Attached is a Notice of Rescheduled Public Hearing – Permit Application for a Solid Waste Landfill Expansion \(Mt. Carberry Secure Landfill – Bean Brook Road, Success, NH\)](#) .

The Public Hearing is scheduled for 6:00 PM at Berlin City Hall with written comments accepted until January 7, 2022.

2. [Mt. Carberry Secure Landfill, Bean Brook Road, Success, NH; Permit No. DES-SW-88-029 Issuance of Type III Permit Modification – Change in Aboveground Site Feature \(Scale\)](#) .

This permit modification is to install a new scale and related infrastructure near the existing scale and scale house.

3. [Attached please find the BWW – Municipal Water Usage from July 2, 2021 to October 1, 2021 \(November 2021 Billing Quarter\)](#).

4. The New Hampshire Municipal Association Annual Conference is being held from November 17th through November 19th of this week. The Conference is for elected and appointed officials. This year it will be held in hybrid format allowing for remote attendance. The Conference information can be viewed at: <https://www.nhmunicipal.org/nhmas-80th-annual-conference-and-exhibition>

5. The Assessing Standards Board will be hosting its 2021 Public Forum, on Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 10:30 a.m., at the Manchester City Hall, Aldermanic Chambers – 3rd Floor, 1 City Hall Plaza, Manchester NH.

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second from Councilor Otis, to accept the City Manager's Report and place it on file. So moved, the motion carried.

4. Mayor's Report

a. Planning Board Appointments

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second from Councilor Higbee, to accept the Mayor's nominations of Daniel Whittet and Theodore Bosen as regular members of the Planning Board with terms to expire on April 30, 2024 and April 30, 2023 respectively. So moved, the motion carried with one vote in opposition from Councilor Eastman.

Mayor Grenier & City Council:

My name is Karen Collins. I am interested in serving on the Berlin Planning Board.

After observing the Planning Board as a guest, I concluded that your team works well together and has a genuine concern for the future shape the city takes under the board. Although I have no political experience, I do have experience with collaborative efforts and business development and management as well as a deep love and respect for the city that I now call home. I have served as a volunteer in several community enrichment programs, one of which was as the center director of Hope for Berlin Recovery Center. I care deeply for the growth and development of our city and would welcome the opportunity to contribute.

I can provide a resume if one is desired as well as references. Hopefully this letter of intent is sufficient.

I am interested in a two-year position as an alternate with a term to expire in April 2024.

Thank you,

Karen Collins

To: Pam Laflamme

Re: Expression of Interest to become a Member of Berlin's Planning Board

I present myself to you with the interest of becoming a member of Berlin's Planning Board for a two-year term. I'm currently retired and want to involve myself more in community affairs than I have been up until now. My health is good and I intend to remain a year-round resident of Berlin.

You may remember me as an employee of the City for 16 years, finishing my work career as Superintendent of Berlin's Wastewater Treatment Plant. And you may know I've lived in Berlin most of my life, grew up on the East Side and progressed through the Catholic school system then in place. Graduate of Notre Dame High School in 1967, I then went on to Boston College where I graduated with a BA in English in 1971. I worked three-plus years at the Cog Railway and then helped Ed Clark start up the North Stratford Railroad in Beecher Falls, VT. In late 1981, I came back to Berlin to take over the management of the Berlin Mills Railway which operated exclusively in the James River Mills then.

You can see my background is varied, although I'm not especially knowledgeable about Berlin's Planning regulations. However, I am a quick study on most matters I become involved in. Please note, I've been a homeowner here since 1982 and have a deep-seated interest in seeing Berlin re-invent itself, grow, and prosper.

Thank you for your consideration.

Henry W. Noel

Councilor Higbee moved, with a second from Councilor Remillard, to accept the Mayor's nominations of Karen Collins and Henry Noel as alternate members of the Planning Board with terms to expire on April 30, 2024. So moved, the motion carried.

5. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

6. Council Comments

There were no Council comments.

7. Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Higbee, seconded by Councilor Berthiaume, the Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm. So moved, the motion carried.

A True Record, Attest:

Shelli Fortin
City Clerk

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