

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, December 20, 2021

Public Hearing

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 7:32 pm for Resolution 2021-25 Carryover Appropriations. There were no public comments.

Mayor Grenier closed the Public Hearing at 7:33 pm.

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 7:33 pm for Resolution 2021-26 Speed Limit Change. 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 7:34 p.m.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Roll Call

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

Absent: Councilor Rozek

Also present: Interim City Manager Pamela Laflamme Finance Director Holly Larsen, Administrative Assistant Danielle Rioux, City Clerk Shelli Fortin, Chief Peter Morency, Deputy Chief Daniel Buteau, Officer Rachel O'Connell, Micah Bachner, Amber Bachner, Stuart Light, Lori Korzen, Steven Korzen, Robert Theberge, Nathan Morin, David Morin, Theodore Bosen, Gary Croteau, Eli Clemmer, Amanda Clemmer, Mark Ginnetty, Spencer Fortier, Tiffany Hale, other members of the public, and William Carroll, Berlin Daily Sun.

c. Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to accept the minutes of the December 6, 2021 Regular Meeting and Work Session, and the Work Session of December 13, 2021. So moved, the motion passed.

Disbursements:

Disbursement Summary Draft #1902 start date 12/07/2021 end date 12/20/2021 for a total cash disbursement of \$1,322,935.35. 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 passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lori Korzen of 788 Kent Street read a letter to the Council and presented a petition against the proposed sale of Brown School.

Mayor Grenier and City Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight. For those who were not here two weeks ago, let me begin by saying that I am not a public speaker, so please bear with me.

I come before you tonight asking that you reconsider the sale of the Brown School for just \$1.00. The Brown School is a beautiful building in a prime location, its estimated worth is over 1 million dollars. Apparently, the City of Berlin still owes money for the new windows that we put into the building a few years ago. It makes no sense to give this building away for just \$1.00 when we, the residents of Berlin, will still be paying off the loan for the windows.

As I understand it, and please tell me if I am wrong, but it is my understanding that this building was not put up for sale but instead put out as a Request for Proposals. When two proposals came in back in 2019 just before the pandemic hit, the council had chosen to go with the Wildcat proposal. Unfortunately, because the entire world basically shut down, Wildcat needed more time to come complete the purchase as agreed upon.

This past fall, another Request for Proposal was sent out with the same two interested parties showing interest. While both proposals were asking for the building for only \$1.00 there were differences between the two which I believe are important to talk about. The first proposal, submitted by New England Family Housing proposed to turn the Brown School into a 20-unit apartment complex. The proposal wanted the City of Berlin to sponsor a CDBG Block Grant in the amount of \$500,000. The CDBG Block Grant stipulates that the majority of units in the building would have to be reserved for low-income applicants.

In the past, ¹Mayor Grenier, as well as other Council members have gone on record saying that Berlin does not need any more low-income apartments. So I do not feel like it is out of line for me to say that I wholeheartedly agree with the Mayor and Council on this issue. Adding more low-income housing has the potential to further burden our already low resources in several areas of our city and could allow things to get worse. This proposal is not in the best interest of our city.

The second proposal that came in was from Wildcat LLC, which has no relationship to Wildcat Ski Area...I only found that out while researching these proposals. The Wildcat LLC proposal was to turn the Brown School into a 17-unit complex, which provided for units to be set aside as short-term residences for traveling doctors and nurses at Androscoggin Valley Hospital. The Wildcat proposal also included a gym for residents and a storage unit for each residential unit.

The big difference between the Wildcat Proposal and the NEFH proposal is that the Wildcat proposal included keeping the current school gymnasium as a basketball court, which could be utilized by the schools for basketball games and other functions. The gymnasium would also be available to Berlin residents and groups as a meeting and event space for lectures, seminars, and gatherings. This is by far the superior proposal as far as what this building can still offer to the kids and residents of Berlin.

Wildcat LLC offers the residents of Berlin access to a building that taxpayers have invested in for so many years, and is, by far, the best proposal that we have received for the Brown School. After reading the Wildcat proposal, I began questioning why the council would choose the NEFH proposal over the Wildcat proposal and have been made aware that perhaps not all council members have the cities best interest at heart but instead have other interests. This is not the first time that this council member has given away a building for just \$1.00, as the Bartlett School was also sold to this company for \$1.00. There is a potential conflict of interest and at the very least this council member should have recused herself from any dealings in regards to this vote. I do hope that this is not the case.

According to the National Association of Realtors, ANY relationship should have been publicly disclosed; however, when the relationship was brought to the surface, it was flat out denied telling me that I was lying and needed to check my facts. When I did 'check my facts,' I was indeed correct. Calling me a liar only points to the fact that this council member knew she was not acting in Berlin's best interest. This is at best, a conflict of interest and possibly an ethics violation.

Stepping away from the differences between the two proposals for a minute, I am hoping to get more clarification on the amount that the city still owes on the loan for the windows we just put in the school. I would love to know, how much we still owe on that loan. Why couldn't we offer the Brown School to Wildcat LLC, not for \$1.00 but for the amount owed on this loan? A simple gesture such as this could go a long way in helping to make the community feel as though they actually have some say in our city.

Before I close, I need to make one thing very clear. I am absolutely not representing Berlin Prosperity, I am speaking on behalf of myself only. This is not a Berlin Prosperity position, I speak for no one other than myself. Member of the old Prosperity ticket stand on both sides of this issue, so I need to make it clear that I am only speaking for myself.

With all of that being said, I humbly ask that we offer Wildcat LLC the Brown School for the amount of the loan we still owe on the property? Mayor and Council members, I ask that we not rush into this ill-fated contract with NEFH, and instead open it back up to Wildcat which would at the very least (even if they didn't agree to pay ANY off the loan) would still allow our kids and residents use of this school?

Nathan Morin of 54 Whittemore Avenue read and submitted a petition in support of the sale of the school.

Dear Mayor Grenier,

We, the undersigned citizens of the City of Berlin, want to express our support for the Mayor and City Council's decision to sell Brown School to New England Family Housing.

We support this decision because:

1. The City provided two opportunities for interested parties to bid on the project.
2. The decision to sell Brown School to New England Family Housing was not made in a vacuum. The Brown School Committee's membership included residents of the neighborhood and city officials. We firmly believe the City conducted this process in an open and transparent manner.
3. Previously the property was not on the City's tax rolls, and New England Family Housing is a for-profit entity that will pay property taxes.
4. It was stated at a previous Council meeting that the back corner of Brown School sits within a flood plain and may need asbestos remediation in the cellar. Selling Brown School to New England Family Housing will mean any necessary environmental clean-up won't be at the expense of Berlin taxpayers.
5. The citizens of Berlin had plenty of time to offer input. Brown School has been closed for two years, and we do not want to see such a beautiful and iconic space remain empty.

We appreciate the work and time that the Brown School Committee, Planning Board, and City officials put into making this sale a reality.

Thank you.

Theodore Bosen of 13 Bisson Road advised that he is a member of the Planning Board and that they voted unanimously to approve the sale of Brown School to New England Family Housing. Mr. Bosen stated this was an agenda item, which was discussed, and nobody came to say it was a bad idea. Mr. Bosen stated that there was a committee report, they looked at the facts, and they decided it was in the best interest of the City to go forward with the sale. Mr. Bosen noted that New England Family Housing has a great reputation in the City and in the state, and they follow through with agreements and turn places into quality housing. Mr. Bosen stated that there are lots of young people who are underwater trying to afford apartments with families, and the City is in desperate need of affordable housing. Mr. Bosen noted that we will get needed housing now, and after 5 years market-rate housing. Mr. Bosen also noted that the Riverwalk will draw people to the Brown School area, and the City will collect tax dollars going forward, which is better than whatever price it might sell for. Mr. Bosen stated that there were two rounds of proposals and it was not kept a secret. Mr. Bosen shared concern about the charter school law that goes into effect in a week, as a charter school may not pay taxes.

Spencer Fortier of 390 Church Street spoke against the sale of Brown School. Mr. Fortier started by stating that he is against this transaction because of a conflict of interest, the fact that this process hasn't been fair to other bidders and that it will only pull our community further into the abyss. Mr. Fortier noted that a request for proposal is not the same as putting it out to bid, the two terms aren't interchangeable. Proposals, RFP's, are far more complex than bids and have a different goal in mind. Mr. Fortier stated that putting it up for bid insures you get the best price, putting it up for proposal is only to secure a service, which in this case is housing. Mr. Fortier stated that Berlin currently has 400 to 600 low-income housing units, of which there are currently about 10 to 40 vacant low-income units. Mr. Fortier also stated that Berlin does not need additional low to moderate income housing units, but instead need medium to upscale units where working single men and woman can rent out and live in a respectable establishment. Mr. Fortier added that this proposal will not fix or help any problem, since there is no problem to begin with. Mr. Fortier stated that in reality the City is just trying to get rid of the Brown School property, quoting Councilor Eastman as saying that "The real problem is an empty school that the city wants out of their hair". Mr. Fortier stated that this will deplete future grant funds for important Berlin projects, as the Riverwalk project has not been completed and because of this Berlin cannot receive any more funds from this grant. Mr. Fortier suggested that low-income housing complexes bring bad attitudes, different core values and will change the City's culture for the worse as a lot of these kids are disruptive in the class room and need special assistance. Mr. Fortier noted that 51% of the project will be used for

low-income housing, however if you look at the other properties, most people do not work. Mr. Fortier suggested that these units will not be rented to working men and woman, but the latter will wiggle their way in until all units are filled with low-income housing. Mr. Fortier stated that the City Council is not doing its job and asked why are they giving tax payer property away for 1 measly dollar, as you can't purchase a McChicken with that and it is poor stewardship of taxpayer money. Mr. Fortier noted that there is no information listed on the website for additional information on the RFP for Brown School. Mr. Fortier also advised that he was informed from an anonymous individual that there were 2-3 other investors who wanted to build upper class suites, but decided to back out because they were worried the City would not issue permits.

Mark Ginnetty of 11 North Road asked if Brown School was an agenda item tonight and noted that he heard about the issue from a Facebook post. Mr. Ginnetty asked about the anticipated assessed value of the property, if it will be similar to Bartlett School or if it will be near the current assessed level. Mr. Ginnetty also asked about the outstanding loan for the windows.

Micah Bachner of 59 High Street spoke to the underlying concern that some have expressed about children who come from low-income families. Mr. Bachner stated that it should not matter if people need to rely on assistance in hard times, as he is a functioning member of society due to that assistance as a child.

Eli Clemmer of 35 Cedar Street stated that selling Brown School for \$1 is a slap in the face, and that something should be done to bridge the gap from the \$1 and the money owed on the windows. Mr. Clemmer agreed that the City needs housing, and affordable housing, but asked about the vision for the community. Mr. Clemmer suggested that the housing still allow the use of the gymnasium for community events, and an attempt be made to try to recover some of the funds, which might go a long way to bridging the gap.

Steven Korzen of 788 Kent Street also presented a petition against selling the school for \$1. Mr. Korzen stated that it is a good deal for those buying it, but not for those giving it away, and suggested that the City step away from giveaways when it comes to investing in the community.

Spencer Fortier spoke again, stating that the has spoken to landlords, business owners, and homeowners, who agree that this is why the economy in Berlin has deteriorated.

Mayor Grenier advised that the City does not owe anything for the windows at Brown School. Mayor Grenier stated that the bond was issued in 2013 as part of a \$3 million bond from the NH Municipal Bond Bank and that the City has satisfied their obligation. Mayor Grenier also advised that the City has invested \$264,193 in the building since 2010, for repointing bricks, windows, exterior doors, roof coating, insulation, asbestos abatement, and remodeling part of the basement. Mayor Grenier advised that since the school was closed and the responsibility for the building fell to the City, the City has incurred \$53,548.43 in costs for utilities. They have received \$7,515 in revenue from AVH for the use of the building, which leaves a net expense of \$46,033.43. Mayor Grenier stated that they do not yet have a P&S agreement, and can add a list of restrictions such as rules for accessory buildings and unregistered motor vehicles or trailers as part of the general agreement. Mayor Grenier stated that the public use of the gym was a great idea and will present this as part of the proposal. Mayor Grenier advised that Brown School also has a special place in his heart. Mayor Grenier advised that there a number of New England Family Housing buildings in his neighborhood and there have not been issues, however any home is bound to have problems sometime. Mayor Grenier advised the public in attendance that their input is valuable and that they hope to come to a workable solution, however affordable housing is needed to bring families to the area to work. Mayor Grenier advised that one of the developers lives and works in Berlin.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Council Committee Reports

There were no Council committee reports.

2. Resolution 2021-25 Carryover Appropriations (tabled 12/06/2021)

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-One

A RESOLUTION carrying over Two Million, One Hundred Ten Thousand, Nine Hundred Eighty-One Dollars and Fourteen Cents (\$2,110,981.14) of Capital Appropriations from the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2021 which are not yet expended to Fiscal Year 2022.

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

That the following capital appropriation funds be carried over as described below:

Item	From Account #	FY21 Carry Over Request to FY22	Request
		Purpose	
		Carryover Requests from FY21 Capital Improvement Funds to Current Year FY22 Segregated Funds	
	01-461-400-0028	CI- SCHOOL FIRE ALARM UPGRADE	\$ 225,000.00
	01-461-400-0032	CI-MARSTON RETAINING WALL	\$ 15,000.00
	01-461-400-0033	CI- BES/MARSTON FENCING	\$ 32,596.00
	01-480-905-0001	CI - ASSESSORS CITY/UTILITY VALUATION/STATISTICAL	\$ 7,000.00
	01-480-910-0005	CI - FLOORING REPLACEMENT CITY HALL AND RECREATION	\$ 10,000.00
	01-480-910-0006	CI - MASTER PLAN UPDATE	\$ 13,500.00
	01-480-910-0008	CI - VOTING MACHINE	\$ 6,250.00
	01-480-913-0025	CI - PW SIDEWALK TRACTOR LEASE	\$ 28,028.03
	01-480-932-0007	CI - PD BALLISTIC VESTS	\$ 14,000.00
	01-480-932-0028	CI - PD THIRD FLOOR RENOVATIONS	\$ 14,545.67
	01-480-932-0031	CI - PD WINTER JACKETS	\$ 5,000.00
	01-480-932-0033	CI - PD CRUISER LAPTOP COMPUTERS	\$ 3,493.12
	01-480-932-0037	CI - PD BODY WORN CAMERAS AND TASERS	\$ 7,008.00
	01-480-961-0006	CI - FD PORTABLE/ HANDHELD RADIOS	\$ 4,642.20
	01-480-961-0013	CI - FD REPLACEMENT OF PAGERS	\$ 13,200.00
	01-480-961-0018	CI - FD FIRE PROTECTIVE CLOTHING	\$ 1,761.68
	01-480-962-0016	CI - PW DRAIN LINE REPLACEMENT	\$ 125,000.00
	01-480-962-0027	CI - PW GARAGE WINDOWS	\$ 30,000.00
	01-480-962-0029	CI - LOADER MOUNTED SNOW BLOWER	\$ 9,738.00
	01-480-963-0026	CI - RECREATION SECURITY SYSTEM	\$ 4,425.00
	01-480-963-0031	CI - RECREATION EQUIPMENT	\$ 8,467.00
	01-480-963-0050	CI - HERITAGE PARK	\$ 5,760.00
	01-480-965-0006	CI - CISCO SAN PAYMENT	\$ 7,741.38
	01-480-965-0007	CI - IT CABLING PROJECT	\$ 25,000.00
A		Total FY21 Capital Improvement Funds to Carryover	\$ 617,156.08

		Carryover Requests from Prior Year Segregated Capital Improvement Funds to Current Year FY22 Segregated Funds	
	01-495-404-0001	DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENTS	\$ 3,664.43
	01-495-416-0001	IT INITIATIVE	\$ 623.63
	01-495-420-0001	PD BALLISTIC VESTS	\$ 1,353.23
	01-495-421-0001	FD REPLACEMENT ROOF	\$ 23,455.00
	01-495-421-0002	FD REPLACEMENT OF SCBA'S	\$ 7,395.00
	01-495-421-0003	RD REPLACEMENT OF HURST	\$ 1,760.00
	01-495-430-0000	PW RETAINING WALL REPAIR	\$ 20,000.00
	01-495-430-0001	BRIDGE INSPECTION/REPAIR	\$ 656.45
	01-495-430-0002	PW STREET & SIDEWALK REPAIR	\$ 152,628.02
	01-495-430-0003	PW DRAIN LINE REPLACEMENT	\$ 40,000.00
	01-495-430-0004	PW HERITAGE PARK ROOF	\$ 25,000.00
	01-495-449-0001	SKATE PARK	\$ 4,350.16
	01-495-462-0003	SCHOOL ROOF REPLACEMENT	\$ 12,238.44
	01-495-462-0023	BHS RUNNING TRACK RESURFACING	\$ 2,000.00
	01-495-995-0102	SF - HERITAGE PARK	\$ 1,312.41
	01-495-995-0105	MOVING DOWNTOWN FORWARD(DOWNTOWN IMPROV)	\$ 3,829.78
	01-495-995-0403	SF - P W GARAGE	\$ 10,299.38
	01-495-995-0917	SF - PD/REC BUILDING BOILER	\$ 2,238.41
	01-495-995-1001	SF - CITY HALL REPAIRS	\$ 9,448.07
	01-495-995-1107	SF - FIRE DEPT ENGINE REPLACEMENT	\$ 80,000.00
	01-495-995-1206	SF - PW INFRARED EQUIPMENT	\$ 21,000.00
	01-495-995-1207	SF - COOS STREET AND JOHNSON BROOK REPAIR	\$ 71,250.00
	01-495-995-2503	SF - RETAINING WALL REPAIR/REPLACEMENT	\$ 12,443.93
	01-495-995-2606	SF - HIGHWAY CNSTRCT/RCNSTRCT/MAINTENANCE	\$ 1,314.47
	01-495-995-3502	SF - LIBRARY BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS	\$ 35,502.74
B		Total Prior Year Segregated Capital Funds to Carryover	\$ 543,763.55
		Sewer Fund	
	60-480-438-0026	Replacement Cost Reserve	\$ 460,000.00
C		Total FY21 Capital Improvement Funds to Carryover	\$ 460,000.00
		Sewer Fund	
	60-495-995-0101	Sanitary Line Replacement	\$ 15,446.81
	60-495-995-0103	Replacement Cost Reserve	\$ 474,614.70
D		Total Prior Year Segregated Sewer Capital Funds to Carryover	\$ 490,061.51
A+B		Total FY21 Capital Improvement Funds and Prior Year Segregated Funds	\$ 1,160,919.63
C+D		Total FY21 Capital Improvement Sewer Funds and Prior Year Segregated Fund	\$ 950,061.51
A+B+C+D		Total Carryover Capital Improvement Sewer Funds Requested from FY 2021 (All Funds)	\$ 2,110,981.14

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 2021-25 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to read Resolution 2021-25 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, that Resolution 2021-25 be passed. So moved, the motion passed.

3. Resolution 2021-26 Speed Limit Change (tabled 12/06/2021)

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-One

A RESOLUTION amending the City of Berlin's speed limit map by lowering the speed limit from 30 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour on the East Milan Road as depicted on the attached map pursuant to the City of Berlin's Code of Ordinances Sec. 15-41

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

Whereas White Mountain Lumber has requested this change and sought input from the Traffic Safety Committee of the City Council; and

Whereas, the Traffic Safety Committee understands that White Mountain Lumber is moving equipment over East Milan Road between their properties to the east and west of the roadway in that area; and

Whereas, the City Council has determined that lowering the speed limit in this area is in the best interest of the community for safety reasons, and

Whereas, pursuant to the City of Berlin's Code of Ordinances Sec. 15-41 speed limit zones are amended by resolution.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

That City Council of the City of Berlin hereby amends the City of Berlin's Official Speed Limit Map by lowering the speed limit from 30 miles per hour to 25 miles on the East Milan Road as depicted on the attached map pursuant to the City of Berlin's Code of Ordinances Sec. 15-41

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

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to remove this item from the table. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to read Resolution 2021-26 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to read Resolution 2021-26 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, that Resolution 2021-26 be passed. So moved, the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

4. Ratification of Labor Agreements

Mayor Grenier advised that there are 4 labor unions that have been working without a contract, some for multiple years. Two of the unions filed an unfair labor practice complaint against the City. The City was supposed to have a hearing with the Labor Relations Board, however the legal costs were higher than expected and the City was able to work out an agreement with the unions. All of the unions will be brought under contract from January 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022, with a 1 ½% pay increase, as long as the unfair labor practice charges are dropped. The unions have ratified the agreement. The total cost to the City will be \$39,095.96. If the Council ratifies the agreement, all of the unions will be under contract until the end of the fiscal year.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to ratify the agreements with OPEIU Local 6, AFLCIO, PD Local Union 3657, and BFD Local 1088, for the period of January 1, 2022 until June 30, 2022, to include a pay increase of 1 ½%, for a total cost to the City of \$39,095.96. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee – yes, Berthiaume – recuse, Otis – yes, Remillard – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Theberge – yes, Grenier – yes

4a. MRI Consultant

Mayor Grenier advised that they have been working without a Public Works Director since the first part of the year, and have come to an agreement with MRI to provide someone for the position until a full-time director is found. Mayor Grenier advised that having one person do the job of City Manager, Community Development Director, and Public Works Director is too much. Having someone in Public Works to help with the budget and the water and sewer project on Route 110 will be beneficial. The cost to the City will be \$95 per hour, and a \$240 travel fee per day when they are required to come to Berlin. They will work remotely for the most part. Mayor Grenier advised that there is money in the budget from the salary that has not been used this year for the Director.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to enter into an agreement for professional services with MRI for a Public Works/Manager Assistant position with a cost of \$95 per hour, and \$240 travel fee. So moved, the motion carried.

5. Ordinance 2022-01 Zoning Ordinance Lot Size and Frontage (1st reading)

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to table the Ordinance and schedule a public hearing for January 3, 2022. So moved, the motion carried.

6. Ordinance 2022-02 Zoning Ordinance Amendment Permitted Use Addition to Rural Residential Zone (1st reading)

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to table the Ordinance and schedule a public hearing for January 3, 2022. So moved, the motion carried.

7. Ordinance 2022-03 Zoning Ordinance Signage Amendment (first reading)

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to table the Ordinance and schedule a public hearing for January 3, 2022. So moved, the motion carried.

8. Resolution 2022-01 Radio Reprogramming Grant (first reading)

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to table the Resolution and schedule a public hearing for January 3, 2022. So moved, the motion carried.

9. City Manager's Report

1. The Nansen Ski Club has asked for permission to hold a Burning of the Greens at Tondreau Parking Lot as the City used to do years ago. Club President Shawn Marquis and Jay Poulin are working together with the Fire Department and Public Works to arrange things. They plan to hold the event on Friday January 21, 2022 from 6:00-8:00PM. They are doing much of the labor and volunteer coordination on their own and trying to ask of the City as little as possible. If the Council would like a formal presentation, Jay Poulin can be available at the next meeting during the Council work session to discuss.
2. Attached are the Order Closing Docket and Order issued in Response to the Proposed Consent Decree from the Board of Land and Tax Appeals. We should have a contract from Corcoran Consulting for the second meeting in January for the 2022 Statistical Revaluation. This needs to be vetted and approved by DRA before we bring it to the City Council for approval.
3. The Fire Chief received and is sharing as requested information from Butler/Berlin EMS.
4. Attached is the property transfer list for October and November 2021.
5. Mason Street Bridge Project – Change order #2
6. The request for qualifications for the water and sewer extension on Route 110 will be advertised in the Union Leader and Berlin Sun on Thursday. It will also be on the NHMA website.

Mayor Grenier noted that the change order was a welcome development, as it reduced the cost by \$48,799.25.

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

10. Mayor's Report

Mayor Grenier wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and stated that this is a time of year to put our differences aside and enjoy the company of our loved ones.

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

11. Public Comments

Spencer Fortier wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Stuart Light of 213 High Street stated that he has attended more than a few Council meeting and most are routine and dull, however he worries about rubber stamping. Mr. Light asked how many resolutions have been brought forward and failed. Mr. Light suggested that if the number is zero, then there should be a concern about Council oversight and function.

12. Council Comments

Councilor Higbee thanked the Planning Board for the work they have done for the changes in ordinances that were brought to Council, as it required a lot of work and discussion.

13. Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Otis, seconded by Councilor Berthiaume, the Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 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.