

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, June 20, 2022

Public Hearing

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 7:32 pm for Resolution 2022-21 DPW Loader Lease Procurement Waiver.

Stephen Gregory of 594 Cheshire Street questioned why the City would not go out to bid for other brands, as there are numerous companies out there that may be able to provide equipment for less cost. Mayor Grenier explained that the City is saving money on these leases as they are already a customer and also explained that the City standardized the use of John Deere equipment for maintenance, parts, and familiarity with the equipment. Mr. Gregory stated that he opposed the Resolution.

Mayor Grenier closed the Public Hearing at 7:36 pm.

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 7:36 pm for Resolution 2022-22 NH DES ARPA White Mountain Paper Company. There were no public comments. Mayor Grenier closed the Public Hearing at 7:37 pm.

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 7:37 pm for Resolution 2022-23 NH DES Clean Water State Revolving Fund. There were no public comments. Mayor Grenier closed the Public Hearing at 7:38 pm.

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 7:38 pm for Resolution 2022-24 Adopting 2023 Budget. There were no public comments. Mayor Grenier closed the Public Hearing at 7:38 pm.

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 7:38 pm for Ordinance 2022-04 OHRV.

Community Development Director Pamela Laflamme advised that this Ordinance is just updating the wording to reflect that the Council may open or close streets if needed for special events.

Steven Korzen of 788 Kent Street stated he was fine with the change, but raised the issue of enforcement. Mr. Korzen asked if the City has partnered with the proper people, such as OHRV clubs and rental agencies, to educate the public. Councilor Berthiaume stated that the Chamber of Commerce does try to work on education when special events happen. Mr. Korzen stated that it makes sense to build partnerships. Councilor Robert Theberge noted that the Coos County Sheriff's Office has been working with rental agencies and clubs to educate riders.

Mayor Grenier closed the Public Hearing at 7:42 pm.

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 7:42 pm for the Downtown Community Revitalization Tax Relief Application for 206 Main Street.

Community Development Director Pamela Laflamme advised that the Council reviewed the checklist two weeks ago for the public benefit of the tax incentive application. The eligible repairs and improvements to the building are estimated at \$140,000, and they will file a covenant with the Registry of Deeds. The current value of the building is \$42,100.

Ryan Charest, owner of the building, advised that he is excited to be back in town.

Paul Charest of 441 Norway Street advised that this project will begin the revitalization of the upper section of Main Street, which currently only has two active buildings which are both owned by the City, the Fire Department and the Public Library.

Micah Bachner of 59 High Street stated that it is a great idea and he is looking forward to it, as we should keep the remaining buildings in the best condition we can.

Lori Korzen of 788 Kent Street stated that she agreed with Mr. Bachner's comments, and added that we are lucky to have people who are willing to put money into new businesses in town.

Raylene Roy of 427 Champlain Street stated it is a good incentive to promote business.

Mayor Grenier closed the Public Hearing at 7:48 pm.

Regular Meeting

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:48 pm.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Grenier, Councilors Remillard, Eastman, Berthiaume, Higbee, Robert Theberge, Roland Theberge, and Morency

Absent: Councilor Morgan

Also present: City Manager Phillip Warren, Jr, Community Development Director Pamela Laflamme, Finance Director Holly Larsen, City Clerk Shelli Fortin, Marion Moore, School Board members Ann Nolin and Nathan Morin, Ryan Charest, Paul Charest, Lori Korzen, Steven Korzen, Micah Bachner, Amber Bachner, Raylene Roy, Stephen Gregory, Paul Robitaille, Berlin Daily Sun, and other members of the public.

c. Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Berthiaume, to accept the minutes of the June 6, 2022 Regular Meeting and Work Session, and the Public Hearing and Work Session of June 13, 2022. So moved, the motion passed.

Disbursements:

Disbursement Summary Draft #1914 start date 06/07/2022 end date 06/20/2022 for a total cash disbursement of \$1,312,213.55. Councilor Roland Theberge moved with a second by Councilor Higbee 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 2022-21 DPW Loader Leave Procurement Waiver (tabled 6/6/2022)

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Two

A RESOLUTION authorizing the lease of two 2022 John Deere 624P Loaders with plow and wing

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

Whereas, the Public Works Department is in need of two loaders for its winter snow removal operations; and

Whereas, it is in the best interest of the City and of the Public Works Department to fund the annual lease payment of \$41,229 for a 5-year term totaling \$206,145 per machine; and

Whereas, there are Capital Funds available within the Public Works Capital Improvement budgets for the lease payment of the new equipment; and

Whereas it has been determined by the City Manager and Public Works staff that it is advantageous for the City to acquire loaders identical to and interchangeable with current equipment;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Berlin, NH that,

The City Council, on the aforementioned recommendation from the City Manager does waive the purchasing and procurement requirements defined in Section 2-430 of the City Ordinances and authorizes the City Manager to take any and all actions needed to complete this acquisition.

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 2022-21 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to read Resolution 2022-21 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, that Resolution 2022-21 be passed. So moved, the motion passed by roll call vote. Robert Theberge – yes, Higbee – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Morency – yes, Remillard – yes, Eastman – yes, Roland Theberge – yes, Grenier - yes

3. Resolution 2022-22 NH DES ARPA White Mountain Paper Company (tabled 6/6/2022)

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Two

A RESOLUTION authorizing an application to the NH Department of Environmental Services' ARPA 2021 Grant Program in the approximate amount of \$100,000.00 for feasibility study funds to determine the potential for White Mountain Paper Company to develop a closed loop system with the City's Pollution Control Facility.

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

WHEREAS, the NH Department of Environmental Services has funds from the American Rescue Plan Act to administer projects such as this one;

WHEREAS, these funds will not require any matching funds from the City or White Mountain Paper Company, and

WHEREAS, White Mountain Paper Company (WMPC) is seeking to develop an innovative solution to their facility and equipment to decommission older systems and explore a closed loop wastewater treatment system with the City to treat WMPC's effluent and this idea requires a thorough feasibility study process to determine if this idea can be carried out in an effective manner both in terms of cost and operations for all parties involved; and

WHEREAS, the City, White Mountain Paper Company and the consultants for the project will work closely with NHDES to make sure all parties are satisfied with the results.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Berlin, NH, that the City Manager is authorized to apply for and receive all grant funds from the NH Department of Environmental Services' ARPA 2021 Grant Program in the approximate amount of \$100,000.00. Be it Further Resolved that the City Manager is authorized to do all things necessary to effectuate the grant and that, upon receipt of the grant, payment(s) shall be deposited in the Sewer Fund.

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

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

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Morency, to read Resolution 2022-22 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Morency, to read Resolution 2022-22 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Morency, that Resolution 2022-22 be passed. So moved, the motion passed.

4. Resolution 2022-23 NH DES Clean Water State Revolving Fund (tabled 6/6/2022)

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Two

A RESOLUTION authorizing an application to the NH Department of Environmental Services' Clean Water State Revolving Fund in the approximate amount of \$1,300,000.00 for funds available to NHDES through a new program that Berlin is uniquely eligible for and allows the City to continue projects related to decreasing inflow and infiltration into the City's wastewater treatment system.

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

WHEREAS, the NH Department of Environmental Services has funds that have come to NHDES under a program in which Berlin qualifies for these funds as they are Overflow and Stormwater Grant funds through their Clean Water State Revolving Fund; and

WHEREAS, these funds will allow the City to continue doing identified projects that reduce the amount of inflow and infiltration into the City's wastewater treatment system; and

WHEREAS, NHDES encouraged the City to apply for these funds and they are available at a 20% match of which the City will be required to match \$264,500.00 from the City's sewer fund. These funds should be available at the end of this calendar year but the project will be a multi-year project.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Berlin, NH, that the City Manager is authorized to apply for and receive all grant funds from the NH Department of Environmental Services' Clean Water State Revolving Fund in the approximate amount of \$1,300,000.00. Be it Further Resolved that the City Manager is authorized to do all things necessary to effectuate the grant and that, upon receipt of the grant, payment(s) shall be deposited in the Sewer Fund.

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

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

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Morency, to read Resolution 2022-23 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Morency, to read Resolution 2022-23 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Morency, that Resolution 2022-23 be passed. So moved, the motion passed.

5. Resolution 2022-24 Adopting 2023 Budget (tabled 6/6/2022)

A RESOLUTION adopting a budget in the amount of Fifty-Four Million, Four Hundred Thirty-One Thousand, Three Hundred Ninety-Four dollars (\$54,431,394.00) and appropriating such to defray the expenses of Berlin's City Government for the fiscal year 2023

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

That the following budget be adopted and accordingly, the sum of Fifty-Four Million, Four Hundred Thirty-One Thousand, Three Hundred Ninety-Four dollars (\$54,431,394.00) be appropriated to defray the expenses of Berlin's City Government for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, less expected revenues, with the balance to be raised by taxation on real estate of the municipality.

Account Number	Description	FY 22 BUDGET	FY23 COUNCIL BUDGET
			PUBLIC HEARING
01-401	MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL Total	\$ 71,058.00	\$ 70,958.00
01-402	ADMINISTRATION Total	\$ 1,142,939.63	\$ 1,223,960.00
01-403	ELECTIONS Total	\$ 9,900.00	\$ 18,450.00
01-404	CITY HALL AND OTHER BUILDINGS Total	\$ 61,994.00	\$ 65,810.00
01-405	SPECIAL FUNDS Total	\$ 310.00	\$ 300.00
01-406	PROPERTY AND LIABILITY INS Total	\$ 80,723.00	\$ 89,000.00
01-408	CENTRAL SERVICES Total	\$ 28,000.00	\$ 33,500.00
01-409	DISCOUNTS/ ABATEMENTS/DEEDED P Total	\$ -	\$ -
01-410	PERSONNEL BENEFITS Total	\$ 388,286.00	\$ 434,153.00
01-411	CONTINGENCY Total	\$ 9,600.00	\$ 10,000.00
01-412	OUTSIDE AGENCIES Total	\$ 82,537.00	\$ 83,822.00
01-413	CEMETERY Total	\$ 21,100.00	\$ 27,550.00
01-416	IT DEPARTMENT Total	\$ 235,800.00	\$ 215,800.00
	TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$ 2,132,247.63	\$ 2,273,303.00
01-420	POLICE DEPARTMENT Total	\$ 3,527,750.00	\$ 3,797,220.00
01-421	FIRE DEPARTMENT Total	\$ 2,426,872.71	\$ 2,455,402.00
01-422	STREET LIGHTING Total	\$ 115,500.00	\$ 95,500.00
01-423	AMBULANCE SERVICE Total	\$ 359,004.00	\$ 377,781.00
01-424	SPECIAL PUBLIC SAFETY Total	\$ 137,130.00	\$ 169,410.00
	TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	\$ 6,566,256.71	\$ 6,895,313.00
01-425	HOUSING DIVISION Total	\$ 95,955.00	\$ 96,016.00
	TOTAL HOUSING DIVISION	\$ 95,955.00	\$ 96,016.00
01-426	CODE ENFORCEMENT Total	\$ 131,774.46	\$ 126,114.00
	TOTAL CODE DIVISION	\$ 131,774.46	\$ 126,114.00

01-430	PUBLIC WORKS Total	\$ 2,249,464.16	\$ 2,562,825.00
01-436	SOLID /PW Total	\$ 850,205.16	\$ 875,841.00
	TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	\$ 3,099,669.32	\$ 3,438,666.00
01-441	WELFARE Total	\$ 115,998.00	\$ 123,465.00
01-449	PARKS Total	\$ 287,427.54	\$ 302,803.00
01-450	RECREATION DEPARTMENT Total	\$ 207,558.80	\$ 217,323.00
01-451	LIBRARY Total	\$ 211,842.12	\$ 229,356.00
	TOTAL COMMUNITY SERVICES	\$ 822,826.46	\$ 872,947.00
01-470	DEBT SERVICE Total	\$ 890,156.00	\$ 889,304.00
01-480	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS Total	\$ 1,791,183.00	\$ 997,768.00
	TOTAL CITY DEBT AND CIP	\$ 2,681,339.00	\$ 1,887,072.00
01-460	SCHOOL OPERATING BUDGET Total	\$ 20,054,378.14	\$ 21,060,921.00
01-461	SCHOOL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS Total	\$ 294,000.00	\$ 155,000.00
	TOTAL SCHOOL GENERAL FUND	\$ 20,348,378.14	\$ 21,215,921.00
01-407	COUNTY TAX Total	\$ 2,261,284.00	\$ 2,388,686.00
01-414	TRANSFER OUT Total	\$ 58,237.00	\$ 69,659.00
	TOTAL CITY GENERAL FUND	\$ 38,197,967.72	\$ 39,263,697.00
	OTHER CITY FUNDS		
FUND 10	SCHOOL EDUCATION GRANTS Total	\$ 9,586,275.00	\$ 8,751,273.00
11-464	SCHOOL FOOD SERVICES Total	\$ 747,243.99	\$ 747,244.00
19-438	RECREATION ACTIVITY FUND Total	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
21-402	BERLIN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT Total	\$ 361,444.00	\$ 333,444.00
FUND 30	GRANT FUND Total	\$ 194,600.00	\$ 1,221,406.00
60-432	SEWER FUND TOTAL w/ Capital and Debt Service	\$ 3,468,439.62	\$ 3,518,056.00
63-437	CATES HILL LANDFILL Total	\$ 7,200.00	\$ 7,200.00
65-490	BERLIN AIRPORT Total w/ Capital	\$ 196,480.00	\$ 549,074.00
	Total Other Funds	\$ 14,601,682.61	\$ 15,167,697.00
	TOTAL CITY BUDGETS - ALL FUNDS	\$ 52,799,650.33	\$ 54,431,394.00

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 amend Resolution 2022-24 by adding \$300,000 to line item 01-430-435-2000 Street Repairs, and also the revenue items discussed in the work session. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Berthiaume, to read Resolution 2022-24 by short title as amended for a second time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to read Resolution 2022-24 by short title as amended for a third time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, that Resolution 2022-24 as amended be passed. So moved, the motion passed by roll call vote. Robert Theberge – yes, Higbee – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Morency – yes, Remillard – yes, Eastman – yes, Roland Theberge – yes, Grenier – yes

6. Ordinance 2022-04 OHRV (tabled 6/6/2022)

In the year of our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Two

AN ORDINANCE amending the CODE OF ORDINANCES, Chapter 13, STREETS, DIVISION 2 Operation of Off Highway Recreational Vehicles, Sec. 13-112. Operation of OHRV's

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Berlin, as follows:

That Sec. 13-112. is hereby amended as depicted below.

Sec. 13-112. Operation of OHRV's

No person shall operate an OHRV, as defined by NH RSA 215-A:1, in or on any street, lane, bridge, alley, sidewalk or other public place in the city except as provided below:

1. In addition to the public trails at Jericho Mountain State Park, the following is an authorized municipal public OHRV trail within the City of Berlin:
 - a) The City of Berlin's roadways, within the urban compact, will be open to OHRV riders for the purposes of accessing the designated Connector OHRV Trail, (via the shortest possible route) as well as accessing local businesses and services. Riding on municipal streets for any other purpose is prohibited with the exception of Sec. 13-112 (4).
 - b) On City streets, OHRV signage and markings, as well as traffic signs and signals which must be obeyed by the OHRV operator. (Ord 5/15/2017)
 - c) The Berlin OHRV Connector Trail and the City of Berlin's roadways will be closed to OHRV riders when the Bureau of Trails declares that the snow machine trails are no longer useable. The connector trail will re-open on May 23, or a reopen date set by the State Trails Bureau. Berlin's roadways will reopen accordingly. (Ord. 4/02/2012)(Ord. 5/04/2015)
 - d) OHRV Connector Trail - This authorized municipal trail runs where marked from the Jericho Mountain State Park to Route 110 and follows Route 110 southeasterly as it changes from Jericho Road to Wight Street. The trail continues to follow Wight St. to Hillside Avenue, for a short distance to York Street (determined by how the trail is actually marked and signed) where it continues easterly to Granite Street. The trail then turns onto Mason Street where it follows Mason Street southeasterly to East Mason Street where it continues southeasterly to Hutchins Street where it follows Hutchins Street northeasterly to Success Pond Road where it follows Success Pond Road to the Berlin/Success line. This authorized municipal trail includes the section of East Mason Street from the RR tracks east of Hutchins Street to Hutchins Street. (Ord. 9/20/2010) (Ord. 4/02/2012) (Ord 5/15/2017)
 - e) Any person who violates the provisions of this article shall be guilty of a violation, punishable by a fine as follows: All violations are subject to a loss of OHRV operating privileges on City streets, NOT including the OHRV Connector trail. (Ordinance 2/17/2014)

First offense, \$100.00 fine.

Second offense, \$250.00 fine.

Third offense, \$500.00 fine.

2. OHRV users in the city must abide by all State and City laws when on designated trails on City streets and must abide by all motor vehicle traffic laws. However, all unlicensed operators shall be accompanied by a responsible

adult who is 25 years of age or older and is a licensed driver (Pursuant to RSA Chapter 263). The person accompanying the unlicensed driver shall be liable for the violation of any provision of this section or rules adopted hereunder committed by such unlicensed driver. (Ord. 5/15/2017)

- a) OHRV's must yield to pedestrians at all times. (Ord. 9-20-2010)
- b) OHRV operators, when operating on the designated trail on City streets, shall ride single file in traffic in the paved travel lane (not gravel or paved shoulders).
- c) There will be no OHRV riders on City streets between the hours of 10:00 p.m. through 6:00 a.m. unless authorized by the City Council during special events. (Ordinance 2/17/2014)
- e) ~~d)~~ All OHRV's operating on designated trails on City streets must have working head and tail lights.

- 3. Complaints regarding OHRV use of these trails shall be received by the Traffic Safety Committee, who may recommend changes to the Council. The Council shall have the power to change the times of such OHRV use by vote without amendment to this ordinance. (Ord. 4-2-2012)
- 4. Anything above to the contrary notwithstanding, the City Council may, at any time by City Council motion, open ~~up~~ or close some or all streets in the City to OHRV use for named special events not to exceed two consecutive days in length; or in the event of temporary OHRV trail obstructions or other matters determined by the Council to require temporary OHRV street use for a length of time determined appropriate by the Council. If and when such City Council approval is given, City street use by OHRV's shall still be subject to all of the requirements listed above for OHRV use of the authorized connector trail. (Ord. 5-21-2012) (Ord. July 16, 2012) (Ord. June 20, 2022)

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

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

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to read Ordinance 2022-04 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Morency, to read Ordinance 2022-04 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Morency, that Ordinance 2022-04 be passed. So moved, the motion passed.

7. Downtown Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive Application – 206 Main Street

Community Development Director Pamela Laflamme advised that a 2/3 majority vote of Council is needed for the motion to pass.

Councilor Remillard made a motion, with a second by Councilor Higbee, that after a duly noticed public hearing this evening and a determination of eligibility of public benefit at the June 6, 2022 City Council meeting, the City Council of the City of Berlin grants an incentive for five years in accordance with the City of Berlin's Code of Ordinances, Chapter 19, Article II, Section 19-19, known as the Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive, Item 6, to Ryan Charest and Ellen Mikesch, owner of a qualifying structure located at 206 Main Street (Map 119, Lot 17) for the rehabilitation activities in the amount of an estimate of \$140,000.00 that are to be completed at the existing structure on the condition that a covenant be signed by Mr. Charest and Ms. Mikesch and the City Manager and filed at the Coos County Registry of Deeds. The value set on this property is currently \$42,100.00. So moved, the motion passed by roll call vote. Robert Theberge – yes, Higbee – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Morency – yes, Remillard – yes, Eastman – yes, Roland Theberge – yes, Grenier – yes

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Resolution 2022-25 Great Northwoods Community Foundation Donation (first read)

Mayor Grenier asked if this would be treated as a receivable and carried over to Fiscal Year 2023, as it currently states Fiscal Year 2022 and the Resolution would not be approved until after July 1. Finance Director Holly Larsen advised she would look into this and get back to the Council.

Councilor Higbee moved, with a second by Councilor Morency, to table the Resolution and schedule a public hearing for July 5, 2022. So moved, the motion carried.

2. City Manager's Report

1. Attached is the transfer report for May 2022.
2. The speed limit sign on Route 110 has been relocated.
3. Sewer Charge Abatement requests will be presented to the Council at its next meeting for consideration.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Morency, to accept the City Manager's Report and place it on file. So moved, the motion passed.

3. Mayor's Report

- a. Letter from St. Kieran's Community Center for the Arts re: "Porchfest"

Dear Ms. Fortin,

Please allow me to introduce myself as the Executive Director of St. Kieran Community Center for the Arts. I have just begun working to foster the growth and development of the arts in the greater Androscoggin Valley area and preserve the historic St. Kieran building that is now in its 22nd season as a performing arts venue. Like any non-profit organization, we are always looking for new and creative ways to raise money. We draw a number of people to the area, performing artists and audience members, and have come up with what I think is a creative way to share the beauty of our landscape with locals and tourists alike.

I am writing today with a rather unique request for the City Council. I would like to request the use of the city sidewalks and to close certain roads in Precinct 2 in order to launch "Porchfest," a musical community bonding experiment! To my knowledge, an event like this has not been done and I would love the opportunity for St. Kieran Community Center for the Arts to bring this "first" to our wonderful city.

We are tentatively looking at holding the event on Tuesday, August 23rd between the hours of 5pm-8pm. At this time, we are in the preliminary planning stages, and so we are still working out which streets may need closures as we receive performer signup information.

At this time we are in the preliminary stages and would appreciate if the information could be kept confidential. New ideas are hard to come by but easy to duplicate, especially if there are organizations with larger, more readily available budgets.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to hearing from you and sharing information with our Board of Directors.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amber Bachner, Executive Director

Mayor Grenier advised Ms. Bachner to work with the City Manager and to come back to Council when they have a list of the specific streets they will be requesting be closed for the event.

- b. Letter from Stephen Gregory re: Stop Sign at Grafton and Cheshire Street

I am the owner of the house on Cheshire street and Grafton street here in Berlin NH. I am asking on behalf of me and all of my neighbors and I'm sure the teachers and also the little kids parents of the 5 and 6 year olds would agree. That STOP signs need to take the place of the 1 yield sign that is there. This is because it's a 4 way street and one two foot side walk to a baby's school playground and God forbid a car ever crashes in to it when their kids are at play there. So I've owned my house for 7 years or so and I can tell you no one even looks at the yield sign and they blow

right threw. Its all ways the big pickup trucks and just 4 days or so ago my neighbor dog 2 house up got lose and ran in the middle of the 4 way and got hit by 2 trucks at once and neither of them even looked to slow down and there been more car accidents than I can count my little brother truck got hit few years ago when he was slowing down to pull in my drive way and I was in my car 2 cars behind it and I can tell you no one slows down and if to cars hit and land in the playground it would be bad iv talk to a lot of the people on my street and a lot of B.P.D. and they all agree there should be a stop sign going up Grafton street and one going down Grafton street and even some kind of regulated speed limit for a school zone and also the kids buss stop is on all four corners of the school but lets start were it will count and be the most effective with the 2 STOP signs. Thank you for your time.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second from Councilor Higbee, to remand the letter from Stephen Gregory to the Traffic and Safety Committee, and send a copy to the Police Department, and to send a communication to Mr. Gregory advising of when the next Traffic Safety Committee meeting is scheduled. So moved, the motion carried.

4. Public Comments

Stephen Gregory of 594 Cheshire Street stated that he was hoping to get approval for the stop sign quickly, as it is a safety concern. Mayor Grenier advised that there is a process for signage, and the Traffic Safety Committee will look at it and make a recommendation to the Council.

Shahin Siyamak of 3 Daley Street shared concerns about drainage at his property. Mr. Siyamak advised that the issue was first reported to City Hall in 2019, both in person and online, but the problem is getting worse. Mr. Siyamak advised that the pipe is filled up with dirt, and when it rains his yard gets flooded. Mr. Siyamak also noted that the loader does not fit down the street in the winter for plowing, and it has damaged the road and his driveway. Mayor Grenier suggested that Mr. Siyamak speak with City Manager Warren about the issues.

5. Council Comments

Councilor Morency clarified concerns from the public about Resolution 2022-21, the John Deere leases. Councilor Morency noted that the City has bought cheaper equipment in the past, and has paid for it in the long run.

6. Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Higbee, seconded by Councilor Roland Theberge, the Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 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.