

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, May 1, 2023

Regular Meeting

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 8:15 pm.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Roll Call

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

Absent: Councilor Higbee

Also present: City Manager Phillip Warren, Jr., City Clerk Shelli Fortin, Lori Korzen, and Lisa Connell, Berlin Daily Sun.

c. Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to accept the minutes of the April 17, 2023 Regular Meeting and Work Session. So moved, the motion passed.

Disbursements:

Disbursement Summary Draft #1936 start date 04/18/2023 end date 05/01/2023 for a total cash disbursement of \$688,119.87. Councilor Roland 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

1. Resolution 2023-17 Reallocation of Public Works CIP Funds (1st read)

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Morency, to table the Resolution and schedule a public hearing for May 15, 2023. So moved, the motion carried.

2. City Manager's Report

1. We had a person complete community service last week who picked up trash on various roadsides, the area around the Riverwalk and Main Street. There were approximately 35 bags collected. While the help was welcomed, the amount of trash improperly disposed of is concerning and an issue many other communities are wrestling with.
2. Street sweeping is continuing. The process is that we clear the sidewalks of debris and on a following night we sweep the street – this allows for an efficient collection process. Due to scheduling, weather and equipment failures this schedule may become delayed at times. It is the intention to clear all debris from the streets, eventually.
3. A camera system will be installed at Community Field. This was funded by a prior year CIP request. The system will allow for monitoring of the area due to continuous vandalism. It is the intention of this office to identify and offer for prosecution anyone found vandalizing this area, as well as any other city property.

Mayor Grenier asked about the camera system at Community Field and complaints they have received about older kids intimidating the younger ones, and wondered if it would help to make them more aware. Councilor Morency stated that it may help with vandalism, and that the Police Department could those not following the rules from the

park, or prosecute depending on the case. Councilor Morency stated that he would hate to see the enjoyment of the park ruined for all by a handful. City Manager Warren advised that it would be a public process, and that the police are proactive but the video footage would be needed as evidence. It was noted that since the police cannot always be there, it is another tool. City Manager Warren also noted that it is not a live system, but will record, and data can be retrieved if needed by the police department. The Police Department is considering a wireless camera, but it would have to be connected to the data network by LAN.

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

2. Mayor's Report

a. Planning Board Appointment – L. Langlois

Dear Mayor and Council:

My current Planning Board term ends on April 30, 2023. I have been on the Planning Board for several years now. I was reappointed chairperson by the board at the April Planning Board meeting. I am interested in serving one more term as regular board member which would run from May 1, 2023 until April 30, 2026.

I have enjoyed serving on the Planning Board over the years and I would very much like to continue with the board as there are many things happening in our community that I would like to follow through. I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lori Langlois
10 Marne Avenue
Berlin, NH 03570

b. Zoning Board Appointment – D. Hoyt

Dear Mayor and Council:

My current Zoning Board of Adjustment term ends on April 30, 2023. I have been on the Board for several years now, and I am currently serving as chairperson. I am interested in serving another term as regular board member which would run from May 1, 2023 until April 30, 2026.

I have enjoyed serving on the Zoning Board of Adjustment over the years and I would very much like to continue with the board as my way of being of service to the community. I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dana C. Hoyt
207 Jericho Road
Berlin, NH 03570

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to approve the nominations of Lori Langlois as a member of the Planning Board and Dana Hoyt as a member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment with terms to expire April 30, 2026. So moved, the motion passed.

Mayor Grenier also noted that there will be a presentation from the NH School Funding Fairness Project tomorrow night at 6pm at the Berlin Elementary School auditorium. Mayor Grenier noted that Representative Cascadden has been very effective for Berlin and Coos County schools on the House Education Committee and helped to add disparity aid grants to the budget.

3. Public Comments

Lori Korzen of 788 Kent Street advised that her neighbor across the street had flooding in the recent storm and requested that the City look at two drains that are not draining correctly. City Manager Warren responded and noted that the biggest problem in the drainage system is debris. Mr. Warren also stated that they are working on expanding their knowledge of the large culvert over Johnson Brook to improve drainage.

4. Council Comments

Councilor Morgan noted that the restrooms were not open for the girls' softball game at Community Field. City Manager Warren stated that they were opened last week, but he will check with the Recreation Department to be sure they are open for games.

Councilor Morgan also noted that people are happy with the Riverwalk, however some people bring their dogs and do not clean up after them. Councilor Morgan requested that a dispenser with bags be installed for dog owners to use. It was mentioned by Councilor Roland Theberge and Councilor Eastman that some people will still not use the bags or will throw them in the woods, however it will help some.

Mayor Grenier thanked Lt. Howry for helping with Community Service hours through District Court.

5. Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Berthiaume, seconded by Councilor Morency, the Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 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.