

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, December 4, 2017

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:56 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. The pledge of allegiance to the flag preceded roll call. Present: Councilors Otis, Nelson, Remillard, Gentili, Rozek, Theberge and Morgan Allain. Absent: Councilor Higbee. Also present: Jim Wheeler, Susan Tremblay, Corrine Cascadden, Pete Morency, Dan Buteau and Barbara Tetreault, Berlin Daily Sun

Minutes, Previous Meeting

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to accept the minutes of the November 20th Regular Meeting/Work Session as well as the minutes from the November 27th Work Session. So moved, the motion carried.

Disbursements:

Disbursement Summary Draft #1803 start date 11/21/2017 end date 12/04/2017 for a total cash disbursement of \$3,046,793.62. Councilor Theberge moved with a second by Councilor Nelson to accept the disbursement summary and pay all bills as recommended by the Committee on Accounts/Claims. So moved, the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – There were none.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Council Committee Reports – Safety Committee

Councilor Rozek stated that the Traffic Safety Committee met on Monday, November 27th at 5:30 pm, and presented the following quick review of the items and decisions made at that meeting.

First Avenue Sidewalk Plowing Request – This request and the snow policy were discussed at both the Traffic Safety meeting as well as the Council meeting. The area discussed is approximately 70'. The Committee approved to end the sidewalk plow route to include 502 First Avenue.

Request for “Blind Person” Sign - Police Chief Morency consulted with an attorney, and he met with HEB Engineers and Mrs. Vaillancourt. Based on the truck traffic pattern, Chief Morency recommended that the Committee place a “blind pedestrian” sign both north and south of 2061 Riverside Drive. The Committee approved the recommendation as presented.

High School Traffic Issue – There has been a traffic problem at the beginning and end of the day on Willard Street as students enter and exit school. The traffic pattern is one way from Willard Street to Madison Avenue. Several vehicles do not follow the one way flow and will turn around in private driveways and/or exit in the wrong direction. The Committee feels that the starting point of the one way portion of the drive/street needs to be clarified. The Committee moved to have Public Works, the Police Department and School to review the signage and clarify this matter. They are to present their recommendation at the next Committee meeting.

Request for Handicap Parking Sign at 159 Oak Street – This matter has been before the Committee previously. They noted that the residence does have a driveway for parking. There is also a handicap parking space around the corner. The Committee moved to deny the request.

Request for Autistic Child Sign on Marble Street – Due to the nature of this request, the Committee is requesting that Public Works and the Police Department estimate the costs associated with this request as well as how other communities are handling this type of request.

Petition for Street Lighting – On a suggestion from the City Manager, the Committee requested that this item be placed in the Capital Improvement Plan for the upcoming budget.

Councilor Remillard moved with a second from Councilor Nelson, to accept the Traffic Safety Committee Report and place it on file. So moved, the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Ordinance 2017-07 Zoning Amendments for Photovoltaic Systems (1st read)

Councilor Remillard moved with a second from Councilor Otis to table this ordinance and schedule a public hearing for December 18, 2017. So moved, the motion carried.

3. Resolution 2017-23 PD \$120,000 Byrne JAG Grant (1st read)

Councilor Theberge moved with a second from Councilor Nelson to table this resolution and schedule a public hearing for December 18, 2017. So moved, the motion carried.

4. Resolution 2017-24 Authorizing and Application to NH Public Infrastructure Fund for Life-Safety Infrastructure Repairs (\$2,001,000.00) and Improvement Security (\$99,568.00) (1st read)

Councilor Nelson moved with a second from Councilor Morgan Allain to table this resolution and schedule a public hearing for December 18, 2017. So moved, the motion carried.

5. City Manager's Report

1. The NH Delegation has issued a request to President Trump to grant a Major Disaster Declaration for New Hampshire as a result of the October 30th storm. The attached communication from Senator Shaheen's office urges the President to make the declaration as soon as possible. Meanwhile, while the bulk of immediate restoration efforts have been completed, some streambank stabilization work near the Bean Brook Bridge on Hutchins St. is scheduled for this week. We are hopeful that we don't experience anything like the October event any time soon and that the current weather continues to cooperate with us getting caught up.
2. Attached is a page report of Public Works Work Orders for the month of November. As a reminder the public, City staff or City Councilors may issue a Service Request through the City website or by calling 752-4450.
3. HEB Engineers Project Status Report #037 for the Route 16 project is attached. As previously reported the construction work is nearing completion. A punch list of items to complete has been issued to Sargent Construction.
4. We did not receive any bids for the repair of the Mason St. City Hall Entry stairs. We are currently contacting contractors to solicit services. At a minimum we hope to stabilize the stairs for the winter and follow up with full repairs in the spring.

5. The NHDOT Bureau of Aeronautics conducted a safety inspection of the Berlin Regional Airport on Wednesday, November 15th. Overall the airport was identified as “well maintained and in good condition”. There are a few maintenance issues that should be dealt with as soon as possible such as brush clearing, crack sealing and pavement markings. The complete report is attached.
6. Berlin Police Dept. [Statistics through October 2017](#) are attached. Milan calls for service and juvenile arrests are up. OHRV Stops are down 35% as compared to this time last year.
7. Unemployment statistics for October show Berlin’s unemployment rate at 3.2%. The Highlights for the October 2017 Estimates are attached. Berlin’s rate is in comparison to a State October 2017 average rate of 2.4%.

Councilor Theberge asked about the wall that is falling in on private property on Bean Brook. Mr. Wheeler stated that the City has been in contact with the property owner regarding this matter, and an agreement has been put in place that the City will pay for their portion of the repairs and the property owner will pay their share.

Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Councilor Morgan Allain to accept the City Manager’s Report and place it on file. So moved, the motion carried.

6. Mayor’s Report

Mayor Grenier thanked the Berlin Main Street Program for the parade, noting that there were several floats and a great turnout. He also urged residents to shop local to support our local area businesses.

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

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS - There were none.

8. Council Comments – There were none.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Mayor and Council, Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Nelson to adjourn the regular meeting. So moved, the motion carried and Mayor Grenier declared the regular meeting adjourned at approximately 8:23 P.M.

A True Record, Attest:

Elaine Riendeau
City Clerk

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