

PUBLIC HEARING – JANUARY 4, 2016

Mayor Grenier opened the duly scheduled and advertised Public Hearing at approximately 7:28 p.m. to hear comments on the following subject matters:

- Ordinance 2016-01 Zoning
- Resolution 2016-01 Authorize Application for \$1 million Assistance to Firefighters Grant

There being no one wishing to speak for or against the subject matters at this time, Mayor Grenier declared the Public Hearing portion of the meeting closed at approximately 7:29 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, January 4, 2016

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. The pledge of allegiance to the flag preceded roll call. Present: Councilors Remillard, Otis, Morgan Allain, Gentili, Higbee, and Theberge. Councilors Rozek and Nelson informed the Mayor they would be absent. Also present: City Manager Wheeler, Susan Tremblay, a citizen and Barbara Tetreault.

Minutes, Previous Meeting

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to accept the minutes of the December 21 Regular Meeting/Work Session; December 28 Work Session. So moved, the motion carried.

Disbursements: Disbursement Summary Draft #1756 start date 12/22/2015 end date 1/4/2016 for a total cash disbursement of \$846,405.07. Councilor 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 carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Andrea Ferron, 15 Chalet Loop Road, was concerned about the City's recent purchase of land from Georgia Pacific in her neighborhood and asked what the plan was to use the land. Andrea stated it is a beautiful piece of land where people snowshoe and ski and it would be a shame to lose the recreation activity from this land.

The City Manager replied that BIDPA actually bought the land and basically their mission is to increase economic activity in the community. There is no current plan in place but should they decide on some type of development, BIDPA would need to submit a site plan process to the Planning Board. The Planning Board would then allow the public to come comment in order to strike a balance to get economic activity while not upsetting abutters. All this information would be available for public review on the City website.

Mayor Grenier added that a big chunk of this land is unusable due to flood plains so it probably won't have any big development. It might be some type of light manufacturing,

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Council Committee Reports – No Reports
2. Ordinance 2016-01 Zoning amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Berlin, Chapter 17, ZONING, ARTICLE IV, Establishment of Zoning Districts, Section 17-41, Zoning Districts (tabled 12/21/15) Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Berlin as follows:

Now therefore, be it ordained by the Mayor and Council that the Code of Ordinances of the City of Berlin Chapter 17, Zoning, Article IV, Establishment of Zoning Districts, Section 17-41, Zoning Districts is hereby amended as follows: OFFICIAL ZONING MAP

The City of Berlin Zoning Map shall be changed to reflect the following:

1. Two maps are attached to this ordinance to clearly reflect the changes being made. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after passage.

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to remove the ordinance from the table at this time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to have the ordinance read a second time by title only. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to have the ordinance read a third time by title only. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to pass the ordinance. So moved, the motion carried and Mayor Grenier declared the ordinance now passed.

3. Resolution 2016-01 authorizing an application to the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program for the replacement of the 1995 Ladder Truck at a cost of approximately \$1 Million Dollars, of which 90% will be funded by the grant and 10% funded by the City (tabled 12/21/15)

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

Whereas, the 1995 Simon-LTI Ariel Ladder Truck has reached its replacement term of twenty years of frontline service to the citizens of Berlin; and

Whereas, the NFPA recommends to cycle out the apparatus after twenty years; and

Whereas, the ladder truck has been deemed unsafe by NFPA standards and in accordance with the grant, the unsafe truck will be permanently removed from emergency service; and

Whereas, Berlin has a large number of older, three and four story tenement housing in dense neighborhoods making a safe reliable truck an essential tool to meet incident priorities of life safety; rescuing trapped occupants on upper floors; incident stabilization by application of elevated master streams; and property conservation through ventilation and extinguishment. 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 funds from the Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant Program for replacement of a 1995 ladder truck at a cost of approximately \$1 Million Dollars, of which 90% would be grant funded and 10% would be funded by the City. Be it further resolved that the City Manager is authorized to sign the grant documents and do all things necessary to effectuate the grant. Said funds granted to the City of Berlin will be used for the purpose of the grant. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after passage.

Councilor Theberge moved with a second by Councilor Higbee to remove the resolution from the table at this time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Theberge moved with a second by Councilor Higbee to have the resolution read a second time by title only. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Theberge moved with a second by Councilor Higbee to have the resolution read a third time by title only. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Theberge moved with a second by Councilor Higbee to pass the resolution. So moved, the motion carried and Mayor Grenier declared the resolution now passed.

NEW BUSINESS

4. City Manager's Report

1. We welcome Jennifer Myers to the Code Enforcement office. She is a great fit for the Housing and Code office and will be starting work on January 5th. I am sure she will be an asset to the team.
2. On Friday, December 18, 2015, the President signed into law H.R. 2029 - the "Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016," which provides funding for the federal government through September 30, 2016 and includes various tax and spending related provisions. Importantly, the legislation includes a two-year delay in the so-called "Cadillac Tax" on high-cost employer sponsored plans. The Cadillac Tax will now become effective in 2020 instead of 2018. While this delay is welcome news for municipal employers, efforts to control healthcare costs should be continued to limit future rate increases and the potential impact of this tax. The Federal Budget also includes \$305 billion in transportation funding which is estimated to provide additional annual funding for New Hampshire over the next 5 years.

3. The City was successful with three recent applications to CDBG. One project is a Planning Study to determine the work required by the Holiday Center to bring their facility up to regulation to be licensed as an Adult Medical Day Care Center. The second project is a Planning Study to determine if the old St. Joseph Parochial School building can be converted into incubator space. The final project is for CDBG funds to be sub-granted to CEDC to loan to Capone Iron for machinery and equipment.
4. The state NH Site Evaluation Committee recently declared the Northern Pass application complete, starting a one-year-review period. The SEC will be holding public hearings as follows:

Jan. 11 in Franklin; Jan. 13 in Londonderry; Jan. 14 in Laconia; Jan. 20 in Whitefield; Jan. 21 in Lincoln.
5. The House and Senate will both meet on Wednesday, January 6, to begin the 2016 legislative session. NHMA continues to keep us informed of bills of municipal interest by publishing the Legislative Bulletin weekly Bulletin#2 can be found at <https://www.nhmunicipal.org/Resources/LegislativeBulletin/93>.
6. The Police Department's most recent Activity Report is attached.
7. The Settlement Agreement with Great Lakes Hydro approved on December 29th is fully executed. This settlement brings certainty to both the City and the taxpayer through the year 2020.
8. The City, on behalf of BIDPA, closed on the purchase of property on East Milan Road that was formally owned by Georgia Pacific on December 31, 2015.
9. The Mayor was instrumental in organizing Saturday night's River Drivers' hockey game to be played as a memorial to Joe Martin, Building Inspector. Approximately \$3,700 was raised for the Martin Family at the game. Thank you Mayor Grenier.

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

5. Mayor's Report – Mayor Grenier thanked Jim and folks at City Hall who represented the City to support the Joe Martin tribute at Saturday's hockey game. It was nice to see.
6. Public Comments – No comments
7. Council Comments - No comments
8. Adjournment: There being no further business before the Mayor and Council, Councilor Theberge moved with a second by Councilor Otis to adjourn the regular meeting. So moved, the motion carried and Mayor Grenier declared the regular meeting closed at approximately 7:46 p.m.

A True Record, Attest:
Debra A. Patrick, CMC
City Clerk