

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, November 5, 2018

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 8:08 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Public Hearing

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 8:08 pm for Resolution 2018-26 FD Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program \$631,760 for Pumper. There were no public comments. Mayor Grenier closed the public hearing at 8:09 pm.

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 8:09 pm for Resolution 2018-27 FD Assistance to Firefighters Grant \$261,938 for Equipment. There were no public comments. Mayor Grenier closed the Public Hearing at 8:10 pm.

Mayor Grenier advised that there is one item under New Business to be added to the Agenda, which is Acceptance of Cost Items for IAFF 1088.

Councilor Rozek moved, with a second from Councilor Higbee, to add Acceptance of Cost Items with IAFF 1088 to the Agenda. So moved, the motion carried.

Regular Meeting

a. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Grenier, Councilors Remillard, Otis, Morgan Allain, Berthiaume, Gentili, Higbee, Rozek, and Theberge.

Also present: Jim Wheeler, Shelli Fortin, Eric Grenier, John Lacasse, Claire Stiles, and Barbara Tetreault, Berlin Daily Sun

c. Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to accept the minutes of the October 15st Regular Meeting and Work Session and the Work Sessions of October 22nd and October 29th. So moved, the motion carried.

Disbursements:

Disbursement Summary Draft #1826 start date 10/16/2018 end date 11/05/2018 for a total cash disbursement of \$1,851,626.48. Councilor 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 carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – There were none.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Council Committee Reports – Councilor Rozek updated the Council on the Traffic Safety Committee meeting which was held on October 22 at 5:30 pm. Several issues were discussed, including the traffic issue at the high school, a sign for an autistic child on Marble Street, a handicap parking spot on Willard Street, and streetlight request on Hampshire Street. Public Works Director Eric Grenier will be looking into each of these requests. A letter from Claire Stiles concerning ATV use on city streets was also read and discussed as a traffic safety issue, and Councilor Rozek advised for the record that he did not tell Mrs Stiles that she did not live in a perfect world, it was plural, we do not live in a perfect world. Mayor Grenier asked Mrs Stiles if she would be available to attend the work session on November 19th, and she advised she would be.

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

2. Resolution 2018-26 FD Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program \$631,760 for Pumper (tabled 10/15/2018)

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 Morgan Allain, to read Resolution 2018-26 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to read Resolution 2018-26 for a third time by short title. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, that Resolution 2018-26 be passed. So moved, the motion passed.

3. Resolution 2018-27 FD Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program \$261,938 for Equipment (tabled 10/15/2018)

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

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to read Resolution 2018-27 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to read Resolution 2018-27 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Higbee moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan Allain, that Resolution 2018-27 be passed. So moved, the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

4. Christmas Parade of Lights Request

The Berlin Main Street Program is once again gearing up for the annual Christmas Parade of Lights scheduled for Friday, November 23rd, at 7 pm. In conjunction with the Berlin Main Street Program, this year's parade is being sponsored by the Androscoggin Valley Chamber of Commerce.

We are also organizing horse wagon rides again this year in downtown Berlin on Small Business Saturday, November 24th, from 12 to 3 pm. The pick-up location will be at the Badger Realty parking lot and the ride will run on Main and Pleasant Street. Badger Realty will hold a SANTA visit for the youth in our community with treats and gifts!

We will be coordinating our efforts with Public Works, Parks and Rec, Police and Fire Departments for road closures and safety issues to make this event run smoothly.

Thanks for your continued support. If you have any questions, please call me at 752-6246.

Sylvia Poulin
Berlin Main Street Program

Councilor Berthiaume moved with a second from Councilor Rozek to approve the road closure permit for Berlin Main Street Program for the Parade of Lights and Small Business Saturday. So moved, the motion passed.

5. Letter From Claire Stiles Reference ATV Use on Roadways

Dear Mr. Wheeler, Mayor Grenier, and Council members:

This is in followup to my letter dated July 21, 2018. That letter was read at the August 6, 2018 City Council meeting, at which time it was referred to the Committee on Traffic Safety and Transportation. I will say that I was puzzled by that referral as my letter was not addressing a traffic safety concern, but rather a quality of life concern. My reservations appear to have been well founded.

I attended the Traffic Safety Committee meeting on October 22, 2018, wherein my letter was on the agenda for that meeting. After Mr. Rozek read my letter to the attendees and asked me several questions, which were not really relevant to my letter, a brief discussion ensued about safety concerns, and the matter of safety was referred to the Police Department. It was also determined that there would be no changes to the Ordinance that had been adopted regarding ATV travel on city streets. As I recall, I did not request such changes be considered nor did I specifically ask for a review of safety issues.

I thought I was clear in my request that consideration be given to conducting a survey in order to measure the impact, if any, passage of the ordinance has had on residents of the City of Berlin.

In responding to the safety issue raised during the meeting, I'm enclosing articles published with regards to the very subject. When I was doing research on the origin of the ATV campaign, I came across these various articles.

In summary, I would respectfully request that my letter again be put forth to the City Council in hopes that it might be addressed more appropriately.

As a side note, I would like to thank Mr. Rozek for reminding me that I don't live "in a perfect world".

Sincerely,

Claire Stiles

Councilor Remillard moved with a second from Councilor Higbee to place the letter from Claire Stiles on file and add her letter to the agenda for the November 19th work session. So moved, the motion carried.

5a. Acceptance of Cost Items IAFF 1088

Mayor Grenier read the cost items for the tentative agreement between the city and IAFF1088 for three years. Mayor Grenier advised that the cost items are more than paid for by savings in the cost of insurance.

Costs

FY19 Increases	1.50%	\$9,708.09 (eff. 11/1/2018)
FY20 Increases	1.50%	\$16,788.04
FY21 Increases	2.00%	\$22,719.81

Savings

HI Employee Co-Pay	\$3,318.83	7 months (annual \$5,689.42)
HI Plan Change	\$23,604.52	5 months (annual \$56,650.85)
FY19 Savings Total	\$26,923.35	

Note: NHRS Red. \$19,970.90 Eff. FY20

Councilor Remillard moved with a second from Councilor Gentili to approve the cost items with IAFF 1088 as presented by the Mayor. There was no discussion. A roll call vote was taken. Councilor Higbee - Aye, Councilor Rozek - Aye, Councilor Berthiaume- Abstained, Councilor Theberge - Aye, Councilor Remillard - Aye, Councilor Otis - Aye, Councilor Morgan Allain - Aye, Councilor Gentili - Aye, Mayor Grenier - Aye. The motion passed.

6. City Manager's Report

1. With the unusually persistent cold weather and early snowfalls, Spohn Ranch has demobilized and requested a winter shut down period for the skatepark project. They will return in the spring to complete the project and have assured us they will come as soon as the weather permits.

2. The city welcomes two new Public Works employees: Brian Middleton and Aaron Blais. Both employees are scheduled to start within the next couple of weeks. These hires will bring the complement of employees to full staff as budgeted.
3. Attached is the Final Report of the HB 324 Commission. The attachment excludes minority reports which can be provided electronically. The report was just received today so I have not had time to digest all of the recommendations. At face value, it is nice to see that the recommendation of the ASB, which was a 75% Original Cost plus 25% Net Book Value formula was only modified by 5% on each factor (70%-30%). The utilities had argues for a 50%-50% formula. This would have been detrimental and unfair to municipalities. In addition, the report indicates that legislation does not need to address land that is owned in fee by utilities. There was much opposition to this during ASB proceedings. It is nice to see that the Commission recognized the logic of it.
4. We are working with Matrix Consulting on finalizing their draft report on EMS integration. We are still a few weeks away from a final report.
5. We have tentatively scheduled Wilson Engineering to give a presentation on the Snow Melt Feasibility Study on December 10, 2018.
6. The Police Department Statistics Report for September is attached.

Mayor Grenier asked City Manager Wheeler to get an estimate for the revenue impact of the HB 324 Commission Report.

Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Councilor Morgan Allain to accept the City Manager's Report and place it on file.

Councilor Higbee asked City Manager Wheeler if there was anything that needed to be done to preserve the work that has been done on the skatepark. City Manager Wheeler advised that it will be fine as long as there is no vandalism. Councilor Higbee also asked for the last page of the HB 324 Commission report, which was not included and City Manager Wheeler will provide that.

So moved, the motion carried.

7. Mayor's Report

- a. Mayor Grenier thanked City Manager Wheeler for the work he did with the Assessing Standards Board.
- b. Mayor Grenier reminded everyone to vote on November 6.

Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Councilor Berthiaume to accept the Mayors report. So moved, the motion carried.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS – There were none.

9. Council Comments – There were none.

10. Adjournment

At approximately 8:41 p.m. Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Berthiaume to adjourn the regular meeting. 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.