

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, January 7, 2019

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:31 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Public Hearing

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 7:32 pm for Resolution 2019-01 Accepting up to \$250,000 Nellie Mae Grant for School Department. There were no public comments. Mayor Grenier closed the public hearing at 7:32 pm.

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 7:32 pm for Resolution 2019-02 Accepting \$5,000 from Domino's for Pothole Repair. There were no public comments. Mayor Grenier closed the Public Hearing at 7:32 pm.

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, Corinne Cascadden, Kristin Labonte, Claire Stiles, and Barbara Tetreault, Berlin Daily Sun

c. Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to accept the minutes of the December 17th Regular Meeting and Work Session. So moved, the motion carried.

Disbursements:

Disbursement Summary Draft #1829 start date 12/04/2018 end date 01/07/2019 for a total cash disbursement of \$4,693,337.72. 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 – Kristin Labonte of 4 Victoria Lane in Berlin, manager of Riverside Heights, addressed the Council about ATV access to their development off of Riverside Drive. Labonte stated that the urban compact ends at Cates Hill Road, and their development is ¼ mile past that. They put in three new houses this year, which is new tax revenue for the city, and the biggest complaint they hear from people looking at the homes is that there is no ATV access. They are hoping to put in another home this year, but would like the support of the council to work with the state to open up the road to provide ATV access. Mayor Grenier suggested that City Manager Wheeler meet with Chris Gamache from the NH Trails Bureau and Mrs. Labonte to look at potential alternatives. Councilor Berthiaume asked if they had already contacted the state and Mrs. Labonte stated they had not. Councilor Berthiaume stated that an exception was made for Jericho Road for ATV access past the urban compact. Councilor Higbee suggested that they look into the Recreational Trail Program which provides grants for trail development.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Council Committee Reports – There were none.
2. Resolution 2019-01 Accepting up to \$250,000 Nellie Mae Grant for School Department (tabled 12/17/2018)

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Theberge, 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 2019-01 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Theberge, to read Resolution 2019-01 for a third time by short title. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Theberge, that Resolution 2019-01 be passed. So moved, the motion passed.

3. Resolution 2019-02 Accepting \$5,000 from Domino's for Pothole Repair (tabled 12/17/2018)

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 2019-02 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to read Resolution 2019-02 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, that Resolution 2019-02 be passed. So moved, the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

4. Resolution 2019-03 CDBG Economic Development AHEAD

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis to table the Resolution and schedule a public hearing for January 21, 2019. So moved, the motion carried.

5. Letter From Irene Oleson Reference Feeding Deer

Dear Mayor Grenier, Council members, and City Manager Wheeler:

I would like to propose an ordinance banning the feeding of deer within the city limits as it is detrimental to property and expensive for property owners who have to replace cedar trees that were destroyed by deer coming on their properties and eating, therefore, killing the trees.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Irene Oleson
447 Sweden Street
Berlin, NH 03570

City Manager Wheeler advised that there is an ordinance in Chapter 3 that prohibits feeding wildlife on public property. Councilor Gentili also pointed out that there is NH RSA that Fish and Game may be able to assist with that prohibits feeding if it is detrimental to the health of the deer population or a threat to public safety.

Councilor Remillard moved with a second from Councilor Rozek to remand the letter from Irene Oleson to the Safety Committee for review at their scheduled meeting on January 14. So moved, the motion carried.

6. City Manager's Report

1. Attached is an open letter from the White River Junction VA Medical Center reaching out to all veterans in the area to encourage them to enroll for medical services.
2. A Year End report from Executive Councilor Joe Kenney is attached for your review.
3. The Berlin Airport Authority is conducting a timber sale on Berlin Airport Property in Milan, NH for the Winter 2019 season. This job must be completed by September 2019. Timber for sale will be shown on Saturday, January 5, 2019 at 9 a.m. Interested contractors are asked to meet at the Berlin Airport office (East Side River Road, Milan, NH).

4. Primex has informed us of a "Premium Holiday" distribution for the Worker's Compensation Program that amounts to \$90,228.10 for the City. The refund is based on each member's as well as the pool's overall performance.
5. A court date of January 16, 2019 at 11:30 a.m. has been set to hear the merits of the City of Berlin v. Loveland Lineage, LLC, George Stanley.
6. The State Fire Marshal's Office has issued a letter to the manufacturer of Kidde Smoke Alarms. Several of these alarms were installed through the NH Get Alarmed Grant Program of which Berlin took part. About 10% of these devices are failing and the Fire Marshal is asking Kidde to develop an action plan to deal with the issues. The letter, further detailing the problems, is attached.

The City's installations covered 100 single family homes protecting 229 residents. Qualifying homes had to have residents over 60 or be homes with small children. Devices installed included:

311-Smoke Detectors
 228-Carbon Monoxide Detectors
 36-Specialty Units (for hearing impaired)
 575-Total units installed

Having experienced failures, the BFD has stocked additional devices through the program to change out problem devices.

7. The Public Works Department will be picking up Christmas trees in (former) Wards 1 and 4 on Friday, January 11, 2019 and (former) Wards 2 and 3 on Friday, January 18, 2019.
8. To date we have drawn down the municipal TAN with Northway Bank by \$750,000.
9. Attached is a monthly report from the Fire Department, as well as a year-end report.
10. A Public Works monthly report is also attached.

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

Councilor Higbee asked City Manager Wheeler about the malfunctions of the Kidde Alarms. City Manager Wheeler advised he believes they are false positives.

Mayor Grenier asked about the "Premium Holiday" from Primex and asked if City Manager Wheeler could schedule Primex to come speak to the Council about our Worker's Compensation experience over the last three years and where we have made and still need to make improvements.

So moved, the motion carried.

7. Mayor's Report

There was none.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS – There were none.

9. Council Comments – Councilor Rozek reminded the Council of the Traffic Safety meeting to be held next week. Councilor Morgan Allain asked that a reminder be included with the agenda for the work session.

10. Adjournment

At approximately 8:03 p.m. Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Higbee 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.