

## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, May 20, 2019**

Mayor Grenier presented a plaque to Lucien Langlois thanking him for his service to the City on the Berlin Water Commission.

Paul Ingersoll, Sr. thanked the Mayor and Council for the flowers that were sent to the funeral service for his wife.

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:34 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

### **Public Hearing**

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 7:34 pm for Resolution 2019-16 Authorizing an Application to the NH Department of Safety for \$7,495.07 for POD Exercise. There were no public comments. Mayor Grenier closed the public hearing at 7:34 pm.

### **Regular Meeting**

a. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Roll Call

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

Absent: Councilor Morgan Allain

Also present: Jim Wheeler, Susan Tremblay, Shelli Fortin, Pam Laflamme, Chelsea Rommel, and Barbara Tetreault, Berlin Daily Sun

c. Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to accept the minutes of the May 6, 2019 Regular Meeting and Work Session, and May 13, 2019 Work Session. So moved, the motion carried.

### **Disbursements:**

Disbursement Summary Draft #1838 start date 05/07/2019 end date 05/20/2019 for a total cash disbursement of \$615,305.89. 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 no public comments.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Resolution 2019-16 Rescinding 2019-07 and Authorizing an Application to the NH Department of Safety for \$7,495.07 (tabled 5/6/2019)

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Nineteen

**A RESOLUTION** rescinding Resolution 2019-07 in its entirety and authorizing an application to the New Hampshire Department of Safety for Seven Thousand, Four Hundred Ninety-Five Dollars and Seven Cents (\$7,495.07) and appropriating these funds to the Berlin Fire Department to complete a Point of Dispensing (POD) Functional Exercise.

### **Resolved by the City Council of the City of Berlin as Follows:**

Whereas the City of Berlin's High School is the Regional Point of Dispensing (POD) Location; and

Whereas these Point of Dispensing (POD) locations are activated to dispense medication to the region's Citizens in the event of a medical emergency; and

Whereas the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the NH Department of Health and Human Services require periodic Functional Exercises to take place in preparation for medical emergencies; and

Whereas, the New Hampshire Department of Safety, through the Division of Homeland Security, has funds available for such an exercise.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Berlin that Resolution 2019-07 is hereby rescinded in its entirety and an application to the New Hampshire Department of Safety for \$7,495.07 is hereby authorized and upon receipt is hereby appropriated to the City of Berlin Fire Department for the purpose of completing the Point of Dispensing (POD) Functional Exercise.

Be it further resolved that the City Manager is authorized to do all things necessary to effectuate the grant.

This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after passage.

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 2019-16 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to read Resolution 2019-16 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, that Resolution 2019-16 be passed. So moved, the motion passed.

2. Council Committee Reports – Councilor Higbee advised that he was part of the Point of Dispensing Functional Exercise and that it was an exercise to mobilize units in the City to respond in the case of a medical emergency. Councilor Higbee advised that they recently met to go over what went well and what did not, and that the exercise was a worthwhile activity.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

3. Ordinance 2019-02 Mt. Jasper Ordinance Amendment (1<sup>st</sup> read)

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis to table the Resolution and schedule a public hearing for June 3, 2019. So moved, the motion carried.

4. Ordinance 2019-03 Chapter 17 Zoning Map Amendment (1<sup>st</sup> read)

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee to table the Resolution and schedule a public hearing for June 3, 2019. So moved, the motion carried.

5. Resolution 2019-17 Accepting up to \$802,000 FEMA Funds (1<sup>st</sup> read)

Councilor Higbee moved, with a second by Councilor Gentili to table the Resolution and schedule a public hearing for June 3, 2019. So moved, the motion carried.

6. Resolution 2019-18 Accepting \$6,037 from NH Health Consortium (1<sup>st</sup> read)

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee to table the Resolution and schedule a public hearing for June 3, 2019. So moved, the motion carried.

7. Resolution 2019-19 Hillside Avenue Bridge Funding (1<sup>st</sup> read)

Councilor Theberge moved, with a second by Councilor Remillard to table the Resolution and schedule a public hearing for June 3, 2019. So moved, the motion carried.

8. Resolution 2019-20 Repurposing Bond Funds (1<sup>st</sup> read)

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis to table the Resolution and schedule a public hearing for June 3, 2019. So moved, the motion carried.

**9. City Manager's Report**

1. We received 3 responses to our Solar Project Request for Proposals that were due by Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. The proposals will be reviewed by the City and BWW and we will report our findings back to the City Council and Board of Water Commissioners.
2. Several staff members attended the Primex Annual Conference at the Mount Washington Hotel Conference Center on May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Education sessions included how to improve employee engagement, right to know issues, and municipal administration improvement strategies amongst more. Their annual conference is a great way for North Country municipalities to take advantage of these training opportunities.
3. At its meeting last week, the Governor & Council authorized the Bureau of Rail & Transit to enter into an agreement with Concord Coach Lines Inc., Concord, NH, for intercity bus service from Berlin, North Conway, and Littleton to Concord, NH, for an amount not to exceed \$686,599.
4. Currently Spohn Ranch is scheduled to be back in Berlin during the week of June 3<sup>rd</sup> to resume work on the skate park. A representative from the company is expected to review the site this week.
5. The Fire and EMS Committee met last week on Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup>. The work of the committee is progressing quickly and they are in the process of preparing a draft report for Council.
6. April real estate transfers are attached.

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

Councilor Berthiaume thanked City Manager Wheeler for attaching the property transfers to the report. Mayor Grenier mentioned that it is nice to see market values increasing.

So moved, the motion carried.

**10. Mayor's Report**

a. Presentation to Lucien Langlois

b. Letter from Normand Rheume – Mayor Grenier read the letter received from Normand Rheume.

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to tell you of my concern regarding a pedestrian safety issue. On the west end of Mason St. there is a need for crosswalks across Mason St. at the intersections of Cole Street and School Streets. Pedestrians, including school children, elderly, handicapped, families, etc. are hesitant to cross Mason St. with no cross walks for the following reason: heavy traffic, including cars, trucks, busses, motorcycles, ATV, etc.

Speed limits on this street need to be enforced. Many drivers use Mason St. as a drag strip, accelerating at a high rate of speed, causing a very hazardous situation. It's no wonder pedestrians are hesitant to cross Mason St. Cross walks would probably help to control speed as well, for most vehicles, and make all pedestrians less leery of crossing a very busy street.

A concerned citizen,

Normand Rheume  
74 Mason St.

Councilor Rozek moved, with a second from Councilor Higbee, to accept and acknowledge the correspondence from Mr. Rheaume, to forward the letter to the Police Department and the City Engineer, and to remand the issue to the Traffic and Safety Committee for a meeting to be held in the next few weeks. So moved, the motion carried.

c. Proposed ZBA Appointments

Mayor Grenier and City Council,

The Zoning Board of Adjustment has two appointments that expired last month and both board members wish to seek another three year term with the board.

Nathan Morin – Three-year term to run from May 2019 until April 2022, regular board member.

Greg Estrella – Three-year term to run from May 2019 until April 2022, regular member. Mr. Estrella serves as Both a Planning Board and Zoning Board member.

Last year Richard Tremaine retired from the Zoning Board and the board wishes to see Gregg Marrer, who has served as an alternate, move up to full board membership.

Gregg Marrer – Two-year term to run from May 2019 until April 2021, regular board member.

Sincerely,

Pamela Laflamme  
Community Development Director

Councilor Rozek moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to appoint Nathan Morin and Greg Estrella to three-year terms to expire April 30, 2022 as regular Zoning Board members, and Gregg Marrer to a two-year term to expire April 30, 2021, as a regular Zoning Board member. So moved, the motion passed.

**8.** PUBLIC COMMENTS – There were no public comments.

**9.** Council Comments – There were no Council comments.

**10.** Adjournment

At approximately 8:02 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.