

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, January 4, 2021

Public Hearing

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 7:28 pm for Resolution 2021-01 Re-Appropriating Funds to PW-Loader Lease Account. There were no public comments. Mayor Grenier closed the Public Hearing at 7:28 pm.

Regular Meeting

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:29 p.m. via Zoom, pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, Section 8 and Emergency Order #12, Section 3.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Roll Call

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

Absent: None

Also present: James Wheeler, Pamela Laflamme, Susan Tremblay, Shelli Fortin, and Barbara Tetreault

c. Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to accept the minutes of the December 21, 2020 Regular Meeting and Work Session. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier - yes

Disbursements:

Disbursement Summary Draft #1878 start date 12/19/2020 end date 12/30/2020 for a total cash disbursement of \$1,129,281.82. 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 by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier - yes

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Council Committee Reports

There were no Council Committee Reports.

2. Resolution 2021-01 Re-Appropriating Funds to PW-Loader Lease Account (tabled 12/21/2020)

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-One

A RESOLUTION re-appropriating Thirty Three Thousand, Four Hundred Three Dollars and Seven Cents (\$33,403.07) from: FY21 CI-PW Garbage Packer (\$13,762.60); FY21 CI-PW Salt Truck (\$8,640.45); FY21 CI-PW Loader Mounted Snow Blower (\$11,000.00) to FY21 CI-PW Loader Operation Lease.

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

Whereas, the City is in need of replacing two of its loaders which are primary equipment for snow removal; and

Whereas, favorable bid pricing resulted in a combined surplus of \$33,403.07 in the FY20 capital accounts for a garbage packer, salt truck and loader mounted snow blower, and

Whereas, by combining the \$33,403.07 with \$63,786.09 which is currently available in the FY21 CI-PW Loader Operation Lease account, funding is available for one additional loader. Funding for the second loader will not be needed until FY22.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Berlin, NH that \$33,403.07 is hereby re-appropriated from FY21 CI-PW Garbage Packer (\$13,762.60) 01-480-962-0030; FY21 CI-PW Salt Truck (\$8,640.45) 01-480-962-0028; FY21 CI-PW Loader Mounted Snow Blower (\$11,000.00) 01-480-962-0029 to FY21 CI-PW Loader Operation Lease 01-480-913-0023 for the lease purchase on an addition loader used for snow removal.

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 by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to read Resolution 2021-01 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume- yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier - yes

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to read Resolution 2021-01 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier - yes

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis that Resolution 2021-01 be passed. So moved, the motion passed by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

NEW BUSINESS

2a. Resolution 2021-02 Berlin Airport Authority Grant (1st read)

Councilor Higbee moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to table the Resolution and schedule a public hearing for January 18, 2021. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

3. City Manager's Report

1. Cross Excavation has predominantly removed the building adjacent to the Fire Station following the demolition of 4 & 8 Main St. They are expected to complete work on this site by the end of this week.
2. Relative to current tax bill and as a reminder, Governor Sununu's Emergency Orders #25 and #56 authorize communities "to enter into agreements with property taxpayers for the payment of property taxes on an agreed schedule, which may include a reduction or waiver of any interest on such taxes." At their July 20, 2020 meeting the Council authorized waiving interest if the balance of the full principal of taxes and sewer on all properties in the same ownership is paid in full. There is more information on the City's web site at: <https://www.berlinnh.gov/tax-collector/pages/opportunity-have-interest-waived-overdue-taxes-and-sewer>
3. The Public Works Department will be picking up Christmas Trees in Precincts 1 and 4 on Friday, January 8th and Precincts 2 and 3 on Friday, January 15th. Christmas trees may also be taken to the AVRRDD Transfer Station on Rte 110 in accordance with AVRRDD rules or dropped off at the Tondreau Parking Lot adjacent to the Mason Street Bridge.
4. The City was notified on November 18, 2020 that the Board of Tax and Land Appeals has scheduled an [evidentiary hearing for Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.](#) This hearing will be conducted remotely

via Cisco's WebEx platform. The Clerk of the BTLA will, in advance of the hearing date, obtain e-mail addresses to provide information regarding how to participate in this remote hearing.

5. On December 30th, 2020 Pam Laflamme, myself, Burgess Biopower and our technical team participated in a de-briefing with a representative from the Federal Highway Administration on our BUILD application submitted in 2020 for the Downtown Reconstruction Project. The FHA offers de-briefings to help applicants improve their chances on future submissions. During the call we learned that FHA received 656 applications in 2020. Those applications represented approximately \$10B in requests. The BUILD program has approximately \$1B in funding. All applications are initially put into one of four categories including; Highly Recommended, Recommended, Acceptable and Not Acceptable. Only those applications that are rated Highly Acceptable go on for further consideration. Of the 656 total applications, 236 were rated Highly Recommended. Berlin's application was one of these. In the end, of the 236 Highly Recommended applications, only 70 received awards. Nonetheless, it was very encouraging to learn how well we did in the process. We learned several things which we believe will help us improve our chances in a future round.

6. Happy New Year!

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

Councilor Remillard requested that the link for the BTLA meeting be shared when it is available. Councilor Remillard also asked when the demolition for 758 Second Avenue would begin. City Manager Wheeler advised that there are a few things they need to work out with the District and DES, but it should begin in a couple of days.

Councilor Eastman asked if any more planning has been done for the paving they discussed on Main Street and Pleasant Street by Veteran's Park and if the inspection was done on the second side. City Manager Wheeler advised that the next step would be to select an engineer, and that there have not been any more inspections since the one done last fall. Councilor Eastman also asked where bids for jobs are posted and Susan Tremblay advised that the most reliable location is on the website, but they are also advertised in the paper and through the NH Municipal Association.

Councilor Higbee congratulated everyone who worked on the BUILD Grant, which was a lot of work and came highly recommended.

So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

4. Mayor's Report

a. BIDPA Appointment

Good afternoon Mayor Grenier,

Thank you for taking the time to speak me today. I appreciate the demands of your position. Your personal approach to engaging new residents speaks to the unique culture of this city and your leadership style.

I have attached a copy of my resume as you requested. It was written with the intention of highlighting past managerial experience and only mentions my experience working with communities around workforce development strategies in very broad strokes. Therefore I would like to take this opportunity to mention a few things about my previous experience.

I am currently the Northeast Regional Director for Prison Fellowship. I oversee all in prison programming and the staff that provide it in twelve states. Prison Fellowship provides a unique training platform for incarcerated individuals that promotes pro-social behaviors and prepares participants for successful reentry. Here is a link that gives an overview of what that entails, [Prison Academy Helps ND Inmates Prepare for Life Outside](#). The numbers speak for themselves. It works.

My interest in employment at Prison Fellowship had as much to do with my past experience in workforce development as it did with my faith background. Prior to my current role, I spent almost 17 years at a large non-profit that served both the Framingham and Worcester Massachusetts regions. In that time I held a number of roles, all of which promoted self-

sufficiency by training and supporting priority populations with the tools necessary to gain meaningful, living wage employment that also provided the ability for career growth through the attainment of stackable credentials. I designed, implemented and managed multiple programs to address economic development in the local community, everything from micro loans for small business as part of a city revitalization program, a Green Jobs Academy, a day labor program that provided case management and individualized employment training, programs for women in a dual diagnosis treatment facility, heads of household of families in shelter, individuals leaving long term mental health hospitalizations, people with disabilities, summer jobs for youth and individualized employment training and supports adults receiving TAFDC.

I would like to highlight one initiative I developed; a training platform to address transportation access issues for homeless families. Historically the state of Massachusetts has relocated homeless families from the city of Boston, West, to multiple suburban towns. One thing all of the towns provided was public transportation access. However, the planners of this system were short sighted and the transportation did not meet the needs of these new residents for a myriad of reasons. To address this, I worked closely with the Metro West Regional Transit Authority, the Framingham Public Schools, multiple daycare providers, the Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance as well as multiple other entities. What I was able to design and launch was a program that used MWRTA buses to drive parents and children to their respective daycares, and then to their places of employment and then repeat in reverse at the end of the day. The individuals driving the buses were also heads of household of homeless families that utilized a specifically designed CDL training program we provided in conjunction with the MWRTA. We hand-picked all of the participants, whether drivers or passengers, and provided intensive employment supports. Multiple participants went from homeless shelters, to market rate apartments to our new homebuyers program within a year. We were also able to help the local school system by providing busing to and from some athletic events for athletes and coaches, the local YMCA with transporting elderly individuals to and from water exercise classes, the MWRTA with boosting their ridership numbers to help increase federal funding in the next fiscal year and the DTA with increasing the number of employed clients, all of whom left the cash benefit programs in time. We did all of this on a shoestring budget, saving the state many thousands of dollars, by leveraging existing relationships and resources with community partners.

I reached out to you today because my wife Sandra, my son John and I all love this community and I would like to become an active participant in its future success in anyway I can. I would welcome your insight into what that might look like. I have no specific service opportunity in mind at this time and I am open to any suggestions you might have.

Thank you again for your time,
Mark Knowlton

Councilor Rozek moved, with a second from Councilor Morgan, to approve the nomination of Mark Knowlton as a member of BIDPA to expire July 31, 2023. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

6. Council Comments

There were no Council comments.

7. Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Rozek, seconded by Councilor Remillard, the Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 pm. So moved, the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan– yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

A True Record, Attest:

Shelli Fortin
City Clerk

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