

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, April 4, 2016

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:25 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 were absent. Also present: City Manager Wheeler, Susan Tremblay and Barbara Tetreault.

Minutes, Previous Meeting

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to accept the minutes of the March 21 Regular Meeting/Work Session; March 23 Budget Meeting; March 28 Work Session/Budget. So moved, the motion carried.

Disbursements: Disbursement Summary Draft #1762 start date 3/22/2016 end date 4/4/2016 for a total cash disbursement of \$973,641.33. 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 – No comments

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Council Committee Reports – No reports

NEW BUSINESS

2. Resolution 2016-06 accepting One Thousand Dollars \$1,000.00 of donations to provide FCC License and associated fees for one new input frequency for the Fire Department repeater along with re-programing all Fire Department Radios. (1st read)

Councilor Theberge moved with a second by Councilor Higbee to table the resolution and schedule a public hearing on April 18. So moved, the motion carried.

3. Resolution 2016-07 Re-Appropriating \$70,147.11 from the Salt/Sand Storage Shed Account to Hutchins Street Rehabilitation. (1st read)

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to table the resolution and schedule a public hearing on April 18. So moved, the motion carried.

4. Resolution 2016-08 authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds in an amount of up to Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000) for the purpose of financing street improvements; with such bonds to be issued through the New Hampshire Municipal Bond Bank, through a private placement with a financial institution or sold on the public market based on the most favorable terms and conditions as determined by the City. Such appropriation shall be added to the already appropriated \$3,500,000 authorized by Resolution 2015-31 for a total of Five Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$5,500,000) to finance street improvements. (1st read)

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to table the resolution and schedule a public hearing on April 18. So moved, the motion carried.

5. Communication from Danielle Warner Request for Blind Person Street Sign.

Ms. Warner is requesting to have a sign placed around her 473 Grafton Street residence for the safety of her visually impaired daughter. She has no vision and often waits for her rides to pick her up outside the home.

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Morgan Allain to accept/file the communication and to remand the matter to the Traffic and Safety Committee for further review. So moved, the motion carried.

6. City Manager's Report

1. The Community Skate Park Committee has been working behind the scenes. Attached is a survey that they distributed to students. Results will be tabulated and incorporated into an appropriate design.
2. On March 28, 2016 we provided letters of landowner permission to the Androscoggin Valley Chamber of Commerce to serve alcohol at this year's events at the Northern Forest Heritage Park and Gill Park on Main St.
 - ATV Poker Run Concert-Saturday, June 25, 2016
 - Paddlemania-Thursday, July 14, 2016
 - Jericho ATV Festival Downtown Block Party-Friday, August 5, 2016
 - Jericho ATV Festival Concert in the Park-Saturday, August 6, 2016
 - Wingzilla-Saturday, September 10, 2016
 - Riverfire-Saturday, October 15, 2016
3. We've had interest from several World News Organizations (CNN, Washington Post, The Guardian) about Donald Trumps' campaign manager Corey Lewandowski who was arrested and charged with simple battery of a reporter. Mr. Lewandowski is the same person who was served a 155-B Order as the registered agent of Green Monster Realty, owners of a property at 537 Rockingham Street in Berlin. There had been a fire at the property and the lack of action by the property owner resulted in the City taking the property down.
4. April 1st marks lifting of the City's parking ban.
5. Attached is a letter expressing thanks to the Berlin PD from business owner David Poulin.
6. A Public Works Report is attached.
7. Attached is information provided by Phoebe Backler and Sally Manikian who are seeking to include the Androscoggin River in the Rivers Management and Protection Program. Pam Laflamme and I have been invited to a meeting on April 14th to learn more about the program and the City's potential involvement. For further information you can also view information at:
<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/rivers/>
8. The March 27, 2016 issue of the Valley News included an article on Trans Canada selling hydro assets on the Connecticut River. The article says, "As part of its effort to finance a new Houston-based natural gas acquisition, Trans Canada Hydro Northeast is looking to sell its New England power generation business, including its hydroelectric dams on the Connecticut River." It is possible that this move signals that they won't be a participant in the Eversource divestiture.
9. The Planning Board will be reviewing two site plans at their upcoming meeting. The Big Apple has submitted a plan to rebuild their store at the corner of Hutchins and East Mason Street and Capone Iron will be doing an expansion to their business in the Industrial Park.

Mayor Grenier is concerned about having the Androscoggin River considered in the "Rivers Management and Protection Program." He is no fan of more environmental protection since it could hurt river access for canoes and kayaks. The City Manager concurs with those sentiments and that is why he is coming to Council to bring the subject to their attention. He plans to attend the April meeting since that is the best way to get information regarding the program.

Councilor Theberge inquired about a previous discussion regarding a canoe and boat launch near the Twelfth Street Bridge. According to the City Manager, it is one part of the Riverwalk Project the other part is the highway. There is a grant round coming up and they will apply for the boat launch. The Rotary Park side will be an un-motorized boat landing and the boat landing near Horne Field will be for motorized boats.

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

7. Mayor's Report

Resignation: Housing Authority. Matthew Buteau wrote a letter of resignation from the Berlin Housing Authority due to scheduling conflicts. Councilor Theberge moved with a second by Councilor Higbee to accept the letter of resignation. So moved, the motion carried.

Mayor Grenier attended the Sylvia Evans Award presentation where Nicole Plourde was honored as the deserving recipient of the award along with three high school ladies. He was amazed to learn about all of Nicole's activities in the community and commented that it was great to see someone who is so involved.

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Higbee to accept the Mayor's Report and place it on file. So moved, the motion carried.

8. Public Comments – No comments

9. Council Comments - No comments

10. Adjournment:

There being no further business before the Mayor and Council, Councilor Higbee moved with a second by Councilor Otis to adjourn the regular meeting. So moved, the motion carried and Mayor Grenier declared the regular meeting adjourned at approximately 7:50 P.M.

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