

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, August 7, 2023

Regular Meeting

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:58 pm.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Grenier, Councilors Robert Theberge, Berthiaume, Morency, Remillard, Eastman, and Roland Theberge.

Absent: Councilors Higbee and Morgan

Also present: City Manager Phillip Warren, Jr., Director of Strategic Initiatives Pamela Laflamme, Chief Daniel Buteau, City Clerk Shelli Fortin, Jan Zicha, and Lisa Connell, Berlin Daily Sun.

c. Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Roland Theberge, to accept the minutes of the July 17, 2023 Regular Meeting and Work Session. So moved, the motion passed.

Disbursements:

Disbursement Summary Draft #1942 with a start date of 07/18/2023 and an end date of 08/07/2023 for a total cash disbursement of \$2,132,635.11. Councilor Roland 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 passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Council Committee Reports

There were no Council committee reports.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Resolution 2023-29 NCHC Opioid Abatement Program (1st read)

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Remillard, to table the Resolution and schedule a public hearing for August 21, 2023. So moved, the motion carried.

2. Resolution 2023-30 NHPWMA Membership (1st read)

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Eastman, to table the Resolution and schedule a public hearing for August 21, 2023. So moved, the motion carried.

3. City Manager's Report

1. [Attached please find the BWW – Municipal Water Usage from April 3, 2023 to July 1, 2023 \(August 2023 Billing Quarter\).](#)
2. The weekend event appears to have been a success, there was an abundance of traffic in the area this weekend. As of this report there were no complaints registered with this office.
3. Progress is being made on the salt and sand storage facility; the site has been surveyed and laid out, staff will be working to prepare the site for final paving and once site prep is complete the structure will be scheduled for delivery.
4. The City's insurer has submitted a check for the solar lights stolen from the Riverwalk, replacements will be ordered this week.

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

Councilor Roland Theberge asked about the water usage at Memorial Field. Mayor Grenier advised that there is an automatic watering system at the field. City Manager Warren advised that he will look into it, as the rain sensor may have failed.

So moved, the motion passed.

4. Mayor's Report

a. Appointment to Police Commission – P. Morin

Honorable Mayor and Council:

I am writing to you today to request a reappointment to the Berlin Police Commission, as my current term will expire on August 31, 2023.

I have served on the Commission since November 2015, when I was appointed to complete Tony Urban's unexpired term. It has been a privilege to serve the City in this capacity, and I would be honored to continue to do so.

As former Coos County Attorney and member and chairman on the state parole board, I believe I bring knowledge, skills, and expertise to the position. During my tenure as Police Commissioner, Commissioners Nault, Tremblay, and I have worked very well together, and we will continue to do so to ensure our community's Police Department is accountable, proficient in its duties, and fiscally responsible.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions or concerns or would like to meet with me, please do not hesitate to contact me at (603) 752-1416.

Sincerely,

Pierre Morin

Councilor Morency moved, with a second by Councilor Remillard, to approve the nomination of Pierre Morin as a Police Commissioner for a 3-year term to expire August 31, 2026. So moved, the motion carried.

b. St Kieran Community Center for the Arts – Dinner on the Bridge

Dear Ms. Fortin,

On behalf of St. Kieran Community Center for the Arts, I would like to request the use of the Bridge Street pedestrian bridge to once again host our Annual Dinner of the Bridge event!

We would like to hold our event on Sunday the 10th of September. Like times past, we will need a block of time to set everything up (4 to 5 hours), another block of time for the actual dinner (2-3 hours) and a third block for clean-up (3-4 hours). It would be great if we could close the bridge to all public pedestrian traffic during the actual dinner block, realizing that closing it for the entire time would make things difficult for those who depend on that path for multiple purposes.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to hearing from you and sharing information with our Board of Directors.

Respectfully Submitted,

Monique Lavertu, Executive Director

Councilor Roland Theberge moved, with a second by Councilor Remillard, to approve the request from St. Kieran Community Center for the Arts to hold the Dinner on the Bridge on September 10, 2023, with the bridge to be closed during the entire event. So moved, the motion carried.

Mayor Grenier thanked the Androscoggin Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Silver Riders for a job well done at the Journey to Jericho ATV Jamboree. Councilor Berthiaume also thanked the Presidential ATV Club for their help as well.

5. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

6. Council Comments

Councilor Remillard advised that she has received complaints about the debris at the property at 811 Sixth Avenue. City Manager Warren advised he will check the property. Mr. Warren advised that items on the sidewalk along with any unregistered vehicles can be addressed, however the rest may be problematic as it is not a city owned property.

Councilor Berthiaume thanked the City for their support this past weekend during the ATV Jamboree.

7. Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Remillard, seconded by Councilor Morency, the Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm. 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.