City Council Work Session
January 24, 2022

Present were: Mayor Grenier, Councilors Robert Theberge, Higbee, Eastman, Roland Theberge, Remillard, Morgan and Morency. Councilor Berthiaume joined the meeting at 6:04pm.

Others present: Interim City Manager Pamela Laflamme, Lori Korzen, Steven Korzen, Stuart Light, and William Carroll, Berlin Daily Sun

Mayor Grenier opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Non-Meeting
At 6:02pm, Mayor Grenier requested to enter in Non-Meeting per RSA 91-A:2, I; (c) Legal Consultation. Councilor Higbee moved with a second from Councilor Morgan to enter into Non-Meeting per RSA 91-A:2, I; (c) Legal Consultation. So moved, the motion carried unanimously by roll call.

At 6:54pm, Mayor, Council and Staff came out of Non-Meeting.

Mayor Grenier requested to add an item to the agenda under other to amend Resolution 2022-02R1. Councilor Remillard moved with a second from Councilor Morgan to add the item to the agenda under other. So moved, the motion carried with one vote in opposition from Councilor Eastman.

Standard Power of America Presentation
Mr. Bob Hayden of Standard Power of America did a presentation on group net metering via Zoom as requested by Council during the January 10, 2022 work session. Questions from the Mayor and Council in regards to the group net metering was asked and answered by Mr. Hayden.

Council Rules and Policies
Existing rules were presented to the Council. Mayor Grenier advised this is an operating document which describes how the Council conducts their meetings according to State Law. He directed Councilors to section XXI and suggested limiting public comments to 3 minutes instead of 5 minutes. Councilor Eastman commented he is comfortable with leaving it at the 5 minutes limit. Councilor Remillard commented she likes the idea of the 3 minutes limit, but with the option of speaking twice. Councilor Theberge commented he is in favor of the 5 minutes limit with an option to come back to speak on the same topic for a 3 minutes limit. Councilor Morgan stated she feels 3 minutes per topic is good. Councilor Eastman commented the 5 minutes limit is reasonable. Mayor Grenier suggested adding a bullet point under section XXI that states it's to the Chair's discretion during Public hearings to limit Public comments to 3 minutes.

Councilor Berthiaume moved with a second from Councilor Morency to add a bullet point to Section XXI to the Rules and Orders of the City Council:

"The Chair has the discretion during Public Hearings to limit Public comments to 3 minutes." So moved, the motion carried with one vote in opposition from Councilor Eastman.

Council Committee Assignments

Mayor Grenier commented that per the Charter, committee assignments are to the Mayor's discretion. He stated that the Airport Authority is a Council election per the Charter.

Councilor Remillard moved with a second from Councilor Robert Theberge to accept the following committee assignments. So moved, the motion carried.

BERLIN AIRPORT AUTHORITY: Mayor Paul Grenier, Chair; Councilor Eastman, Councilor Higbee

COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS & CLAIMS: Mayor Paul Grenier, Chair; Councilor Remillard, Councilor Eastman, Councilor Robert Theberge, Councilor Roland Theberge

COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION: Councilor Remillard, Councilor Morgan, Councilor Morency, Councilor Roland Theberge, Councilor Berthiaume (Alternate)

COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS: Councilor Robert Theberge, Councilor Morgan, Councilor Higbee, Councilor Berthiaume

BUDGET COMMITTEE: Entire Council

SEWER APPEALS COMMITTEE: Entire Council with power to act.

BIDPA Member: Councilor Berthiaume, Ex Officio; Councilor Higbee, Council Appointment

Councilor Berthiaume moved to elect Councilors Morency and Roland Theberge to the Berlin Airport Authority with a second from Councilor Morgan. So moved, the motion carried.

Mayor Grenier stated by the statue, the Mayor of the City of Berlin is the Chairman of the Berlin Airport Authority and is also Ex-Officio of the Berlin Water Commission.

Councilor Higbee commented he was not appointed by Council as a member of the BIDPA board. He was appointed prior to being elected Councilor. Mayor Grenier commented BIDPA members are appointed by the Mayor subject to Council's approval. He also commented that the new ordinance passed within the City did not involve BIDPA.

Mayor Grenier asked Councilors Higbee and Remillard if they wanted to continue serving on the following and if any other Councilors would like to serve in these two positions;

COMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY ACTION (one appointment): Councilor Higbee

Planning Board Member: Councilor Remillard, Ex-Officio

Both Councilors stated they wanted to continue serving on these positions.

Mayor Grenier commented Councilor Higbee is already appointed till the end of his term, so only Councilor Remillard needs to be re-appointed. Councilor Morgan moved to support the Mayor's nomination of Councilor Remillard as Ex-Officio of the Planning Board with a second from Councilor Morency. So moved, the motion carried.

Other
Councilor Remillard moved to correct a scrivener's error in paragraph six of Resolution 2022-02R1 to read NH RSA 194:61 with a second from Councilor Robert Theberge. So moved, the motion carried by all in favor.

Non-Public Session
Councilor Remillard moved with a second from Councilor Morgan to go into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II; (b) Hiring. So moved, the motion carried unanimously by roll call.

Hiring matters were discussed.

At 8:17pm, Council and Staff came out of Non-Public Session. Councilor Roland Theberge moved to seal the minutes until Council hires a new City Manager as releasing them would render the action taken ineffective; Councilor Higbee seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call.

Adjournment
There being no further business, Councilor Berthiaume moved to adjourn; Councilor Higbee seconded and the motion carried by all in favor. The meeting ended at 8:18pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Danielle Rioux
Executive Assistant

*Minutes are unofficial until they have been accepted by the City Council by motion.