

City Council Work Session
October 16, 2023

Present were: Mayor Grenier, Councilors Morgan, Roland Theberge, Higbee, Morency, Valerino, Robert Theberge and Berthiaume. Councilor Eastman was absent.

Others present: City Manager Phillip L. Warren Jr., Dir. Of Strat. Initiatives and Asst. City Mgr. Pamela Laflamme, City Clerk Shelli Fortin, Finance Director Holly Larsen, Fire Chief Jay Watkins, Phil Corbett, Steven Korzen, Lori Korzen and Lisa Connell, Berlin Daily Sun.

Mayor Grenier opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m. He advised Councilor Eastman notified him he would be absent this evening due to illness.

Route 110 Water and Wastewater Report – Phil Corbett, CMA

Mr. Phil Corbett of CMA Engineers discussed the Route 110 Corridor Water & Sewer Extension Conceptual Design Report the firm produced. He prepared a [presentation](#) for Council which included; Purpose of Project, Site Investigation Completed, Evaluation Objectives & Summary, Phase Improvements & Costs and Funding Opportunities. Questions from the Mayor and Council in regards to the presentation were asked and answered by Mr. Corbett.

2023 MS-1

Mr. Warren presented the 2023 MS-1 which is the summary inventory evaluation prepared by Corcoran Consulting Associates. The 2023 MS-1 value has increased by \$18,055,282 from 2022. All of the increase is in the utilities. The total value with utilities is \$731,691,816. He recommends Council votes to approve the 2023 MS-1 as presented and sign the document. Councilor Higbee moved to accept the 2023 MS-1 as presented. Councilor Morency seconded and the motion carried with all in favor.

Letter to Municipalities – Liquor License Application from The Hydro Tavern LLC

Mr. Warren advised The Hydro Tavern LLC, Mark Cohenno, located at 102 Main Street, applied to the State of NH Liquor Commission for Restaurant Bev/Wine/Liquor license. Councilor Berthiaume moved to endorse the liquor license application request from The Hydro Tavern LLC, Mark Cohenno. Councilor Morgan seconded and the motion carried with all in favor.

InvestNH Grant – Certificate of Vote

Ms. Laflamme advised there is a Resolution for this on the regular meeting's agenda for first read this evening. This is related to the project for Brown School. As a companion program, InvestNH put together for communities that were making investment in housing such as this project as they're receiving funds from InvestNH to put against their CDBG funds, own funds and any other source of funding. Host communities are eligible for \$10,000 per unit that qualifies as affordable for the community. There are fifteen units that qualify. The City of Berlin is eligible for \$150,000 in funds. Those funds have no strings and can be used however the Council sees fit.

She advised that the Council needs to take a certificate of authority vote this evening. Councilor Berthiaume moved to authorize the City of Berlin to apply for, accept, and expend money from governmental or private sources, which may become available during the year, according to the procedures set forth in law, accept a (Municipal Per Unit grant) for the (Brown School) Project, grant award: MPU22-120 and enter into a grant contract with the New Hampshire Department of Business and Economic Affairs subject to Governor and Executive Council approval. The City Council further authorized the City Manager to execute any documents and perform any other acts necessary or convenient to cause the City to enter into the Contract with the BEA. The following person has been

elected or appointed to and now occupies the office of City Manager, Phillip L Warren Jr. Councilor Higbee seconded and the motion carried with all in favor.

City Council Letter regarding Burgess Biopower

Mayor Grenier advised Council the letter and [Facts vs. Myths document](#) was added to the agenda packets for their review. The plan is to send the letter and facts vs myths document to all 400 House Members. He commented he is going to Concord tomorrow to meet with the NH Speaker of the House of Representatives, Sherman Packard and would like to hand deliver the letter and the facts vs myths document. He commented this will be a difficult process as veto overrides are not easy. Mayor Grenier confirmed he spoke with Councilor Eastman who is in full support of the communication. Councilor Robert Theberge commented he spoke with the Speaker of the House Sherman Packard on Sunday and gave him all this information that is coming forward. He also spoke with Representative Henry Noel who will be addressing the House Body regarding this issue. He commented the Coos County Commissioners also support this. Councilor Higbee moved to send the letter and facts vs myths documents to all House Members in the NH Legislature. Councilor Berthiaume seconded and the motion carried with all in favor.

Non-Public Session

At 7:29 p.m., Councilor Higbee moved with a second from Councilor Roland Theberge to enter into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 II; (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of this board, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to include any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant. The motion carried unanimously by roll call.

A discussion was held on EMS service delivery. No votes were taken.

At 8:15 p.m., Councilor Higbee moved with a second from Councilor Morgan to come out of Non-Public Session. So, moved the motion carried by roll call with all in favor.

At 8:16 p.m., there being no further business in Work Session, Mayor Grenier recessed before moving on to the Regular Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Danielle Rioux
Executive Assistant

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