

City Council Work Session

April 23, 2018

Present were: Mayor Grenier, Councilors Otis, Theberge, Gentili, Remillard, Rozek; Councilors Morgan Allain, Nelson and Higbee were absent

Others present: City Manager Jim Wheeler, Elaine Connary, City Clerk Elaine Riendeau, Finance Director Patty Chase, Wastewater Superintendent Jon Goodreau, Public Works Director Michael Perreault, Barbara Tetreault *Berlin Daily Sun*.

Mayor Grenier opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

2018 BHS Color Run

Ms. Connary explained that the sophomore class is doing a Color Run to raise money for their class. The route they chose is manageable for any age. Participants receive a white t-shirt as part of their entrance fee and during the run there are three locations where color is sprayed on the participants. The color is cornstarch based powder and is not harmful. Ms. Connary noted that the students have done a great job working together to plan and promote the event. They named it "Live Free or Dye"; designed the t-shirt and developed a poster. The group was given the school's permission through central office. Mayor Grenier thanked Ms. Connary.

Councilor Rozek moved to approve the route for the Live Free or Dye Color Dash to be held Sunday May 20 from 10 a.m. to Noon at Memorial Field; Councilor Theberge seconded and the motion carried.

Tax Deeded Properties

Ms. Chase reviewed the list of properties that will be tax deeded tomorrow if taxes are not paid by then. She noted that the owner of 273 Pleasant and 55 Guilmette may come in to pay; she expected 393 Burgess to be taken.

With regard to Berwick Street, there is no deed and therefore it is unlikely that it will be tax deeded. Councilor Rozek asked that research be done on the two Berwick Street properties so that the City can take them. The property owner of 505 School Street notified he would be in tomorrow. Ms. Chase suspects that we will tax deed 218 Blanchard Street.

There are three mobile homes that are to be deeded. Ms. Chase suggested that city not take them and let the association take care of it. Councilor Remillard stated that she would rather see the City take the properties and put them up for a quick sale. 8 Green Square is the Eagles and they will come in tomorrow with certified funds. We have not heard from the owner of 508 Hillside. The owner of 50 Devens St is expected to come in tomorrow. The city will likely end up with the Princess Theater. Wangs could come in tomorrow. Ms. Chase stated that if there are unexpected complications such as a bankruptcy, she would withhold the property from tax deeding. Councilors asked for a final list once the process is complete.

Request to Fill Position at WWT Facility

Mayor Grenier noted that there is information regarding the Napert Village Pump Station and the Wastewater Budget that he would like to add to the agenda. Councilor Rozek so moved; Councilor Otis seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Goodreau explained that the plant operates with three operators, a chief chemist, and a maintenance person. There is a technician funded in the budget; however that position is very difficult to fill. There is a lot of preventative maintenance that could be done. He proposed hiring another operator to fill the position he vacated when hired as the Superintendent. Councilor Remillard stated that she hesitates to fill the position before the budget becomes final.

Councilor Theberge asked Mr. Goodreau if he could show what savings would be gained with preventative maintenance rather than waiting for reactive maintenance. Mayor Grenier asked that the item come back in July for reconsideration. Mr. Perreault added that there is the potential for retirements that could be happening at the treatment plant in the next few years. Councilor Remillard asked for a report on that as well.

Napert Village Pump Station

Mr. Goodreau reported that a new pump was purchased for the Napert Village pump station. The control panel at the station is not working. It does not have dependable alarms or low level shut offs. The panel's controlling mechanism is mercury. After burning out several pumps, Mr. Goudreau asked for an estimate of what it would cost for a new panel. Wright Pierce gave a loose estimate of \$30,000. They are proposing to design the panel for a fee of \$16,900. From their design, the project would go out to bid. Councilor Rozek moved to accept the Wright Pierce proposal for the design of Napert Pump Station Control panel with the final quote and bid results to come back for award; Councilor Gentili seconded and all voted in favor.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Mr. Wheeler announced that there will be a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Route 16 Project Friday, May 11 at Heritage Park at 11:00 am. Invitations will go out shortly.

Street Sweeping

Councilor Remillard asked the status of street sweeping and Mr. Perreault said that he has a 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. shift and if it rains, the work will be done during the day. He added that the streets have to be ready for line painting. The priorities follow the snow removal policy.

Councilor Rozek commented that the paint on the Route 16 project did not hold to the pavement. He suggested that it should be epoxy.

Councilor Remillard asked where we are we on acquiring more of Route 110. Mayor Grenier stated that Joe Kenney will be in Berlin with the DOT Commissioner this week and they will be reviewing.

Non-Public Session

Councilor Remillard moved with a second from Councilor Rozek to go into non-public session per RSA 91-A:2 II(e) consideration or negotiation of pending claims; so moved, the motion carried unanimously by roll call.

Council discussed strategy in a pending claim.

Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Councilor Remillard to come out of non-public session at 8:00 p.m.

Councilor Remillard moved with a second from Councilor Theberge to seal the minutes of the non-public session until the City Manager deems it appropriate, as releasing them would render the proposed action ineffective; the motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Remillard moved to adjourn; Councilor Otis seconded and the motion carried. The meeting ended at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Tremblay
Administrative Assistant

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