

City Council Work Session April 15, 2019

Present were: Mayor Grenier, Councilors Theberge, Otis, Remillard, Rozek, Berthiaume, Higbee, and Gentili; Councilor Morgan Allain was absent.

Others present: City Manager Jim Wheeler, Board of Assessor's Chair Bob Goddard

Mayor Grenier opened the meeting at 6:05 p.m. Mayor Grenier asked to add one item "Community Clean-Up Day" to the agenda. Councilor Rozek so moved, Councilor Higbee seconded and the motion carried.

Non Public Session

Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Councilor Otis to go into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II (e) Consideration or negotiation of pending claims; and (i) Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel. The motion carried unanimously by roll call.

A legal matter was discussed.

Councilor Rozek moved to come out of non-public session; Councilor Berthiaume seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call.

Councilor Rozek moved to seal the minutes of the non-public session as releasing them would make the action taken ineffective; Councilor Berthiaume seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Goddard left the meeting at this time.

Work Session

Others present: Shaley Mosher, Claire Stiles, School Business Administrator Bryan Lamirande, School Superintendent Corinne Cascadden, Police Chief Pete Morency, Assistant Chief Dan Buteau, Destination Imagination Team members and staff: Guy Stever, Kelsey Alimandi, Alexix Griffin, Josh Berthiaume, Julia Belanger, Aden Wood, Dave Griffin; Barbara Tetreault and public

Destination Imagination

Kelsey Alimadi reported that this will be the last year for the DI team. They came in first place in the State and are now destined to go to Kansas City, Missouri for the Globals. It will cost \$16,492 to get the team there and the team will be doing a number of fundraisers. Mr. Griffin invited the City Council to the Team's encore presentation of their DI challenge on April 27 in the auditorium at 6:00 p.m. Councilor Rozek moved to give the DI Team \$3,000 from Council Contingency for their trip to Kansas City; Councilor Berthiaume seconded and the motion carried. Mayor Grenier expressed how proud he is of how the Team represents the City of Berlin.

Champion for Children Award

Corrine Cascadden congratulated Mayor Grenier and proudly presented him with a Champion For Children award. She said that he will be honored at a ceremony on May 10

Police Department Grants

Dan Buteau explained that the 2020 Highway Safety Grants are for enhanced patrols and they are very similar to ones passed every year. The Granite Shield grant is for reducing the opioid crisis. Operation Stone Garden is a homeland security grant to work in conjunction with other agencies to secure international borders. Mayor Grenier asked if this is money in addition to what the County gets. Chief Morency indicated that it is in addition to. Illegals are found to be crossing and congregating to small cities so this grant will give the ability to have patrols

LED Lighting Rebate Resolution

Mr. Wheeler explained that this resolution ties loose ends on a few projects. We received a rebate from Eversource for doing the lighting project in the amount of \$91,750 which was deposited in Misc Revenue. The LED lighting project had an amount of \$14,201.03 beyond the budgeted capital amount that was anticipated. The Bemis Street paving project cost was \$11,500. The resolution appropriates money (\$26,000) from the rebate to be used to pay for the two capital projects.

Update on 10 Year Plan Projects

Mr. Wheeler reported on the status of the Ten Year Plan projects which include an upgrade of Glen Avenue; and Route 110 out past the ATV dealerships. DOT is comparing their estimates of the projects to the estimates the City put in the project application and there is a huge difference. DOT is applying the cost per mile of Route 110 to the new work and that is not accurate because of the land acquisition factor. Ms. Laflamme added that North Country Council made adjustments after we submitted. There is also the addition of 2.55% added for every year between cost estimate and the build date.

We asked if DOT would come to a meeting to discuss the costs of the projects and they declined. Both projects are over \$20 million so DOT suggested doing them phased in or do them on our own. The allocation for the region is \$6.1 million per year. DOT did suggest an analysis of Green Square and perhaps changing the traffic patterns and they did not factor these changes into their costs. Mr. Grenier agreed saying that we submitted a pavement maintenance project and they estimated for full replacement. Councilor Higbee suggested breaking the projects up into different years. Mayor Grenier added that we will not be in a position to take on any more debt until 2026; any such project would require a 20% match. Ms. Laflamme confirmed that DOT had programmed for construction in 2029. Councilor Berthiaume confirmed that moving the urban compact depends on this.

PWD Position Request

Eric Grenier stated that an employee gave a 2 week notice and he would like to fill the position which is currently in the budget. Councilor Berthiaume moved to allow to replace for the resignation in the PW crew; Councilor Higbee seconded. Mayor Grenier suggested stretching the hire until July 1. Mr. Grenier noted that we will be down a person and we will lose efficiency. Councilor Theberge asked for further explanation and Mr. Grenier stated that a person with more training will now have to work on the garbage truck. He noted that he's advertised for 5 summer positions in PWD and Recreation. Councilor Berthiaume asked if overtime could be used to get additional work done.

Other

Councilor Rozek reported that a local business owner has had a sewer line fail. With the help of Public Works, he was able to discover where the leak is 4 feet off the pavement. The contractor contacted

DOT and they want city intervention to get the sewer line repaired. Mr. Wheeler explained that this facility is just outside the urban compact and it was a venue that served a lot of people and they chose to put in their own pumping station, run 2,000 feet of pipe along the roadway to the City's armory pumping station. This is a private system and they have a permit issued to them in the 1980's from DOT. Phil Beaulieu from DOT now says that it cannot be allowed to have private utilities in a public right of way. Mr. Wheeler commented that it makes no sense for the City to be involved. The State wants the City to be the applicant. DOT is putting the City in a bad position and in the meantime, the business owner is still without sewer service. Mr. Wheeler stated that he and Eric Grenier will continue to work on this.

Community Clean Up Day

Shaley Mosher explained that she is organizing a community cleanup day for May 4 from 10:30 a.m to 4:00 p.m. She will be using Community Field as a base and sending people out from there to different areas in the City. She asked for help with getting the garbage picked up. She wants to order pizzas and provide water for volunteers. It was suggested that safety vests be provided for the volunteers. Chief Morency indicated that the PD would put someone out to monitor safety and the PD is available if syringes are found. Mr. Grenier will coordinate pick up of the trash. Mayor Grenier donated the \$125. and will volunteer for five hours.

Non-Meeting

Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Councilor Berthiaume to go into non meeting per RSA 91-A:2 (b) Collective Bargaining

There being no further business in work session, Mayor Grenier moved on to the regular meeting.

Non Public Session

At 8:50 p.m. Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Councilor Berthiaume to resume the non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II (d) land matters. The motion carried unanimously by roll call.

Land matters were discussed.

Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Councilor Berthiaume to come out of non-public session. So moved, the motion carried unanimously by roll call.

At 9:15 p.m. Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Councilor Higbee to adjourn. So moved, the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Tremblay
Administrative Assistant

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