

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Wednesday, September 9, 2020

### Regular Meeting

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:50 p.m. via Zoom, pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, Section 8 and Emergency Order #12, Section 3.

#### a. Pledge of Allegiance

#### b. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Grenier, Councilors Remillard, Otis, Morgan, Eastman, Higbee, and Berthiaume

Absent: Councilors Rozek and Theberge

Also present: James Wheeler, Pamela Laflamme, Susan Tremblay, Shelli Fortin, Peter Morency, and Barbara Tetreault, Berlin Daily Sun.

c. Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to accept the minutes of the August 17, 2020 Regular Meeting and Work Session. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Berthiaume – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan- yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier - yes

#### Disbursements:

Disbursement Summary Draft #1870 start date 08/14/2020 end date 09/03/2020 for a total cash disbursement of \$1,067,543.42. Councilor Remillard 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 carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Berthiaume – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan- yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### 1. Council Committee Reports

There were no Council Committee Reports.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### 2. City Manager's Report

1. We opened bids on several tax deeded properties. Only 212 Glen Avenue was not sold. Below is a list of the bids received.

Property	Minimum Bid	1	2	3	4	5	6
153 Church Street	\$8,672.12	\$15,025.00					
340 Church Street	\$8,547.20	\$35,001.99	\$13,510.00	\$12,990.00	\$12,805.00	\$10,555.00	\$10,495.00
88 Wight Street	\$1.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00				
413 Derrah Street	\$3,982.56	\$8,000.00	\$6,030.37	\$5,000.00	\$4,840.75	\$4,440.00	
508 Hillside Ave	\$7,898.94	\$15,601.99	\$8,000.00				
563 Second Ave	\$7,127.43	\$14,890.00	\$10,199.00	\$8,205.00			
458 Willard St	\$1.00	\$218.00	\$500.00				
56 Pershing Ave	\$1.00	\$7,000.00	\$1,227.50	\$1,000.00			
212 Glen Ave	\$1.00						
Disqualified							

2. Tom Condon of EPA Region 1 has notified the City that EPA is initiating a contamination remediation plan for the property at 640 Hillside Avenue. This work follows as assessment of the site which is known

to be a former illegal junk yard. The site contains PCB's and lead contamination. The remediation plan will consist of excavation of contaminated soil and replacement with uncontaminated soil. In order to perform the excavation work in October, the site will undergo some preparations beginning as early as next week. The bulk of this preparation activity will be the clearing of on-site trees and vegetation. EPA will be giving a presentation to the City Council and public on either September 14<sup>th</sup> or September 21<sup>st</sup> prior to commencement of the excavation work. Abutters and other potentially interested parties will be receiving notification of the work by mail directly from EPA.

3. A preconstruction meeting for the WPCF Site, Ejector Station and Remote Pumping Station Upgrades was held on September 8<sup>th</sup> with Wright Pierce, DHI Construction and the City participating. DHI expects to begin work within the next few weeks.
4. The City has ordered a new Larue D50 loader mounted snow blower from Viking Cives of Lewiston, ME. The Larue equipment was the successful bidder meeting specification. PWD Garage Supervisor Roland Langlois was able to visit and view a similar unit owned and operated by the City of Rumford Public Works Dept. prior to placing the order. The total purchase will be \$129,262.00. \$150,000 was budgeted in the CIP section of the budget for this piece of equipment. It may take up to 6 months to receive the equipment. In addition, orders for both the salt truck and garbage packer were made earlier this summer.
5. The Hutchins Street Mill and Overlay project is out to bid with bids due tomorrow, September 10, 2020. Contingent on pricing, we intend to award the work within a week or so with construction to follow.
6. Health Trust has sent us an expected return of surplus summary. They are estimating a return of \$21,054.34 to the City. A copy their letter is attached.
7. Finally, several security cameras have been installed in the public spaces of City Hall. The views from these devices are displayed and monitored by the Berlin Police Department.

Mayor Grenier asked about the grant from DES for equipment. City Manager Wheeler advised that it is going to the Governor and Council for approval, but they have not received the final word.

Councilor Remillard stated that she was thrilled to see the tax deeded properties sold and would like a list of whatever the City has left, including land. Mayor Grenier commended the staff for making this happen and Councilor Remillard for the push to get it done.

Councilor Higbee moved, with a second from Councilor Morgan, to accept the City Manager's Report and place it on file. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Berthiaume – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan- yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

### 3. Mayor's Report

#### a. Letter from Gary Fillion

James Wheeler  
City Manager

RE: Water run off/Snow plowing

I'm requesting a resolution from the Department of Public Works to prevent water retention/pooling onto the property of 10 Dustin St. (the home of my mother – Cecile Fillion) at the bottom half of the driveway and yard. I left a photo with Mr Bryson on Monday, 8/17/2020 explaining the problem. The property at 10 Dustin, indents approximately 6 – 8 feet, with pavement and curbing (this is the street). The properties above, jet out 6 – 8 feet (considered right of way), with grass lawn and no curbing. During torrential rains, the water run-off from the street, pools at the bottom of the driveway and yard. What I'm proposing, is the city put a curb (half the height of a regular curb) at the end of the driveway (the length of the driveway). I believe this would prevent the pooling of water. The water run-off would follow the curb, at the bottom of Dustin and around onto Sweden St. The second issue, is the city snow plowing – again, all related with the property indenting 6 – 8 feet. When the plow driver gets to the property line of 10 Dustin,

the plow comes into that space, creating larger snow banks. Makes it difficult to see on-coming traffic. I would prefer the driver of the plow, plow straight down Dustin, without cutting into the 6 – 8- feet.

The reason I'm requesting the issues resolved now, is that my father passed away late last year and he always dealt with the water, but not the issue. I just had work completed in the basement, to repair the wall facing Dustin St from water damage. I do not want to have the repairs repeated in the following year; the additional cost that I have incurred, can be prevented.

Please advise in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

Gary Fillion

City Manager Wheeler advised that he spoke with Mrs. Fillion before this letter came in. Mrs. Fillion advised that she is having some work done on her driveway and that Mr. Wheeler could speak to the contractor to coordinate. Mayor Grenier suggested a quick phone call to Mrs. Fillion to ask about the timeline.

b. Letter from Family Resource Center

To the Berlin City Manager, Mayor, and Council:

Hello My name is Heidi Richard and I work with the Family Resource Center of Gorham. One of my roles is Car Seat Safety. I am a certified Car Seat Technician and I partner with DHMC to make sure families have the appropriate car seat for their child. The month of October is Car Seat Awareness and Safety. The Family Resource Center would love to host a free Car Seat Inspection day. The event will be October 17<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 12 noon. I would love to use the Community Parking Lot that is housed between Mason and York St. We would have the cars enter from the York St entrance and exit onto Mason St. We will have two tented areas for the cars to park complete an inspection and then move on. We will follow all COVID restrictions as well. We plan to use cones for safety paths as well. Please let me know if this is possible, I can be reached at 1-603-723-6462 or by email at [Heidi.richard@frc123.org](mailto:Heidi.richard@frc123.org).

Sincerely,

Heidi Richard, BS, CPST

Mayor Grenier suggested that Heidi Richard coordinate with the Berlin Police Chief for COVID19 compliance.

Councilor Remillard stated that Ms. Richard does a good job checking car seats and a great job for the Family Resource Center.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second from Councilor Higbee, to send a letter to Heidi Richard granting permission for the Car Seat Inspection Day as long as she communicates with Chief Morency about safety concerns. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Berthiaume – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan- yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second from Councilor Morgan, to place the letter from Gary Fillion on file and send a note that it was received. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Berthiaume – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan- yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no Public Comments.

**5. Council Comments**

Councilor Berthiaume wished Councilor Remillard a Happy Birthday.

Councilor Remillard asked about a date for the Zoom meeting with NHDOT reference Route 110. City Manager Wheeler advised he is hoping it will be on September 21<sup>st</sup>.

**6. Adjournment**

On a motion by Councilor Higbee, seconded by Councilor Morgan, the Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm. So moved, the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan- yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

A True Record, Attest:

Shelli Fortin  
City Clerk

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