

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, July 17, 2017

With the Council work session ending early, Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:15 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, noting that the Council will stop at 7:30 pm for the scheduled Public Hearing. The pledge of allegiance to the flag preceded roll call. Present: Councilors Otis, Gentili, Higbee, Rozek, Nelson, Theberge and Morgan Allain. Absent: Councilor Remillard. Also present: Jim Wheeler, Susan Tremblay, Pete Morency, Dan Buteau, Christy Langlois and Barbara Tetreault

Minutes, Previous Meeting

Councilor Theberge moved with a second by Councilor Nelson to accept the minutes of the July 5th Regular Meeting/Work Session. So moved, the motion carried.

Disbursements:

Disbursement Summary Draft #1794 start date 07/05/2017 end date 07/17/2017 for a total cash disbursement of \$2,021,103.41. Councilor Nelson moved with a second by Councilor Theberge to accept the disbursement summary and pay all bills as recommended by the Committee on Accounts/Claims. So moved, the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – There were none.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Council Committee Reports

Councilor Rozek stated that the Traffic & Safety Committee met at 5:30 pm this evening. There were four items discussed.

The matter of the proposed flashing yellow light at Hillside/Route 110 – Councilor Rozek turned the matter over to Police Chief Pete Morency. The Chief stated that as time has progressed it has gotten harder to be able to hire part-time crossing guards. The type of light that was researched was the same type that is used in Dartmouth and is more effective than a simple yellow blinking light to the crosswalk. The system is solar powered and push button activated. Chief Morency stated that the light has been purchased with left over monies from the 2017 FY budget that were transferred into the equipment replacement fund. He anticipates the crossing light to be installed well before the start of the school year.

The matter of a First Avenue Plowing Request – Councilor Rozek stated that the Committee tabled this matter so that it may be looked into further. The Committee is concerned about reopening the snow removal policy.

The matter of a request for “Blind Person” sign – Councilor Rozek stated that the Committee has also tabled this matter, however, asked Chief Morency to explain to the Council. Chief Morency stated that this area of road is dangerous based on the speed limit, curves and grade. He also stated that he would like to look into the ADA laws and how the matter can be best handled.

The matter of request for street lights, Hutchins Street, Turcotte Street to Napert Village – The Committee has tabled this matter until such time as the Route 16 project is complete so that it can be determined whether there will be funds available from the bond to complete the Hutchins Street lighting.

Councilor Higbee moved, with a second from Councilor Morgan Allain, to accept the Traffic and Safety Committee’s recommendations and implementation as presented by Councilor Rozek. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Rozek moved, with a second from Councilor Higbee, to suspend the regular meeting and move into the scheduled public hearing. So moved, the motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING – JULY 17, 2017

Mayor Grenier opened the duly scheduled and advertised Public Hearing at approximately 7:33 p.m. to hear comments on the following subject matters:

Resolution 2017-11 appropriating \$75,000 from the Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund of the NH Charitable Foundation to build a new skate park at Community Field.

Mayor Grenier asked for comments from the public.

Christie Langlois thanked the Mayor and Council for their support in making the reality of the skate park happen. She also thanked Councilor Higbee for his eloquent words on Facebook. Mayor Grenier thanked Ms. Langlois for her hard work and dedication on this project.

With no other comments presented, Mayor Grenier closed the public hearing at 7:35 pm.

Councilor Higbee moved, with a second from Councilor Rozek, to resume the regular meeting. So moved, the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

2. Resolution 2017-11 Accepting & Appropriating \$75,000 from NH Charitable Foundation for Skate Park (Tabled 7/5/2017)

A RESOLUTION appropriating Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00) from the Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund of the NH Charitable Foundation to build a new skate park at Community Field.

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Berlin as Follows:

Whereas, the City sold land to Eversource where the old skate park was located; and

Whereas, the old equipment for the skate park was dilapidated and dangerous; and

Whereas, the City has set aside funds for a skate park to rebuild a new and safer park at more accessible and visible location; and

Whereas, a skate park will add additional recreational opportunities to the Community Field complex for the City's youth; and

Whereas, the City recognizes the interest of its youth in having such a facility locally.

Now Therefore, Be it Resolved that the City Council of the City of Berlin hereby appropriates Seventy Five Thousand Dollars, (\$75,000.00) from the Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund of the NH Charitable Foundation to build a new skate park at Community Field.

Be it further resolved that, the City Manager is authorized to accept the grant and to sign and do all things necessary to effectuate and carry out the grant.

This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after passage.

Councilor Nelson moved with a second by Councilor Theberge to remove the resolution from the table at this time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Nelson moved with a second by Councilor Higbee to have the resolution read a second time by title only. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Nelson moved with a second by Councilor Higbee to have the resolution read a third time by title only. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Nelson moved with a second by Councilor Higbee to pass the resolution. So moved, the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Communication Jean Chaloux re: Route 16

The City has taken my bike lane away. Every day I ride my bike and the distance between me and cars is 6". It is a matter of time before someone is killed. You have been warned I am a citizen of Berlin, that idea was a terrible mistake. Don't make it worse with a death. Put Route 16 back the way it was, or I'll approach the State and DOT.

Jean Chaloux

Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Nelson, to accept the correspondence, send notification to Mr. Chaloux of its receipt and place it on file.

4. Communication Bob Fournier re: Notre Dame Apts

May 25, 2017

Dear Notre Dame Apartment Resident,

I received your petition this morning requesting that Notre Dame Apartments become a permanent stop/pickup location for the Berlin Gorham Trolley.

I'm so happy to see that so many of you are using the Trolley for your transportation needs. Community participation is very important to keep the service operating in this area.

Unfortunately, a permanent stop is not possible for several reasons. First and foremost, we are required to do site evaluations when choosing stop locations. A site evaluation was done at the apartment building right before the building opened to residents. School Street is very narrow with parking on either side of the street. There isn't a pull off, or breakdown lane that would allow for a fixed stop location. Fixed stops mean that the driver must keep the bus stationary for 4 to 5 minutes before departing. Our buses would be blocking the street if we were to have a permanent stop there and that would be illegal. Secondly, in order to utilize our wheelchair lift, we require a certain amount of road space to deploy the lift safely and board the passenger. School Street does not have that space available. During the winter time, snow storms narrow the road even more, and we have had occasions when the bus can't even get down the road because of all the snow piled up and the cars parked on the side of the street.

The Trolley is able to deviate from its assigned route as long as it is safe to do so and pick up any passenger from the Notre Dame Apartments when that passenger calls ahead and is outside when the bus approaches. I encourage all the residents wanting to ride the Trolley to call ahead and we will be happy to deviate from our fixed route to pick them up.

Thank you for supporting Tri County Transit!

Sincerely,
Brenda Gagne

Director of Transportation
Tri County CAP, Inc.

Side handwritten note to Mayor Grenier was as follows:

Paul
Can you help us out to get service.
Thanks,
Bob Fournier

Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Morgan Allain, to accept the correspondence, remand it to the Traffic & Safety Committee for further review, forward an acknowledgement of receipt to Tri County Transportation and Mr. Fournier and place on file. So moved, the motion carried.

5. Mayor's Report - There was none.
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS - There were none.
7. Council Comments – There were none.
8. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Mayor and Council, Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Higbee to adjourn the regular meeting. So moved, the motion carried and Mayor Grenier declared the regular meeting adjourned at approximately 7:40 P.M.

A True Record, Attest:

Elaine Riendeau
City Clerk