

## **PUBLIC HEARING – September 18, 2017**

Mayor Grenier opened the duly scheduled and advertised Public Hearing at approximately 7:40 p.m. to hear comments on the following subject matters:

Resolution 2017-16 Independent School Administrative Unit.

Resolution 2017-17 Anthony B. Urban Memorial Highway Dedication

Resolution 2017-18 Authorizing an Application to the Department of Safety for \$20,000 for Opioid Abuse Reduction Initiative

Mayor Grenier asked for comments from the public; with none presented, the public hearing on the subject matters above closed at 7:42 p.m.

## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, September 18, 2017**

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:43 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. The pledge of allegiance to the flag preceded roll call. Present: Councilors Otis, Nelson, Higbee, Rozek, Remillard, Theberge and Morgan Allain. Absent: Councilor Gentili. Also present: Jim Wheeler, Susan Tremblay, Bryan Lamirande and Barbara Tetreault

### **Minutes, Previous Meeting**

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to accept the minutes of the September 5<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting/Work Session and the September 11<sup>th</sup> Work Session. So moved, the motion carried.

### **Disbursements:**

Disbursement Summary Draft #1798 start date 09/06/2017 end date 09/18/2017 for a total cash disbursement of \$1,095,686.28. Councilor Theberge moved with a second by Councilor Nelson 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 – There were none.
2. Resolution 2017-16 R-1 Independent School Administrative Unit (Tabled 09/05/2017)

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Seventeen

**A RESOLUTION** supporting further study of the disadvantages and advantages of the development of an independent school administrative unit to include an analysis of the legal and other process steps required to do so.

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

Whereas, there have been declining student populations in Berlin and surrounding communities; and

Whereas, there are drastic reductions in State Equitable Aid for Schools planned over a 25-year period (FY17-42); and

Whereas, the Berlin City Council recognizes the importance of educating the youth of the North Country to provide equal opportunities for college and career readiness ; and

Whereas, the Berlin City Council recognizes the need to study, evaluate and consider potential changes to the current School Administrative Unit governance as a direct dependent department of the City along with considerations for broader regionalization of the school systems of the area for the purpose of maintaining, improving and creating a sustainable education system for the youth of the area.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Berlin, NH supports further study of the disadvantages and advantages of the development of an independent school administrative unit to include an analysis of the legal and other process steps required to do so.

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

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

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to amend the resolution as presented in 2017-16 R-1. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to have the amended resolution read a second time by title only. So moved, the motion carried.

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

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to pass the amended resolution. So moved, the motion carried.

**3. Resolution 2017-17 Anthony B. Urban Memorial Highway Dedication (Tabled 09/05/2017)**

**A RESOLUTION** supporting the dedication of a section of Route 110 along Wight St. from the intersection of Gilbert Street to the 10 Jericho Road (Public Works Garage) as the "Anthony B. Urban Memorial Highway".

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

Whereas, Anthony B. Urban spent a lifetime serving his community through his work and volunteer activities; and

Whereas, Tony grew up in Berlin, graduating from Berlin High School and spent 79 years living in and affecting positive change in the North County; and

Whereas, from 1968 to 1994, he served as the Berlin Junior-Senior High School Assistant Principal and as Principal he served on many NHIAA committees, including 36 years as the Hockey Committee Chairman; and

Whereas, Tony was dedicated to several public service capacities both locally and statewide including but not limited to the Berlin Water Commission, the NH Hockey Hall of Fame Committee, the NH Police Memorial Committee, the Berlin Police Commission (also serving as Chairman) and Chairman of the Berlin Track Facilities Renovations Committee; and

Whereas, the Berlin City Council, in tribute and in recognition of the contributions made to the City of Berlin and to the State of New Hampshire by Anthony B. Urban, seeks to dedicate a section of Route 110 as the "Anthony B. Urban Memorial Highway"

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Berlin, NH supports the dedication of a section of Route 110 along Wight St. from the intersection of Gilbert Street to 10 Jericho Road (Public Works Garage) as the "Anthony B. Urban Memorial Highway".

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

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

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

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

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

Mayor Grenier stated that he was honored to have the Council's support for this Resolution. Mr. Urban did a lot for the local kids, and he is missed.

**4. Resolution 2017-18 Authorizing an Application to the Department of Safety for \$20,000 for Opioid Abuse Reduction Initiative (Tabled 09/05/2017)**

**A RESOLUTION** authorizing the Berlin Police Commission to apply for and accept \$20,000.00 (Twenty Thousand Dollars) in grant funds from the NH Department of Safety for the purpose of effectuating the Opioid Abuse Reduction Initiative.

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

WHEREAS opioid sales and abuse are causing an increase in overdoses, deaths, and a rise in serious crimes; and

WHEREAS Berlin is not immune to the opioid epidemic, and the Berlin Police Department has confirmed opioid trafficking in Berlin; and

WHEREAS the opioid epidemic has not only caused an increase in drug offenses but has affected an increase in property crimes and other non-drug related crimes which are taxing on the Police Department's and City's resources; and

WHEREAS the New Hampshire Department of Safety recognizes the severity of the opioid crisis and has grant funding available to support the continuation and expansion of successful partnership patrols and joint narcotics enforcement operations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Berlin, NH, that the Berlin Police Commission is authorized to apply for and receive grant funds from the NH Department of Safety for the purpose of effectuating said Opioid Abuse Reduction Initiative. Further, upon receipt of the grant, the sum of \$20,000.00 (Twenty Thousand Dollars) is hereby appropriated to the Berlin Police Department Fiscal Year 2018 Budget, in addition to all previously-appropriated funds.

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

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

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

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

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to pass the resolution. So moved, the motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **5. Ordinance 2017-06 Establishing the Irene Ouellet Markovich Scholarship Fund (1<sup>st</sup> read)**

Councilor Nelson moved with a second by Councilor Higbee, to table this ordinance and schedule a public hearing for October 2, 2017. So moved, the motion carried.

### **6. City Manager Compensation**

Mayor Grenier stated that at the Work Session on September 11<sup>th</sup>, the Council went into non-public session to discuss a performance review, along with a salary increase for the City Manager.

Councilor Nelson moved with a second by Councilor Theberge, increase the City Manager's salary effective July 1, 2016 by .7% and 1% effective July 1, 2017 for a total salary increase of \$1,861.00, with his new salary being \$110,861.00. So moved, the motion carried.

### **7. Correspondence – Priscilla Gemmiti Willard/Madison Street Signage**

September 8, 2019

Traffic Safety Committee  
c/o City Clerk  
168 Main Street  
Berlin, NH 03570

Priscilla Gemmiti  
539 Willard Street  
Berlin, NH 03570

Attention Traffic Safety Committee

Please note that the Berlin High School traffic flow at the end of Willard Street exit to Madison Ave. needs signage improvements on the one way road near BHS.

1. BPD have been working on enforcing the "No Parking During School Hours" signs and they have been great.....I think it is working!!
2. The one-way road exit from BHS to Madison Ave. is a joke....of course the buses drive down the hill to Madison Ave. exit....and USPS have been faithful using the "one way" exit...unlike Federal Express, UPS and other traffic car and truck activities...so why have they been ignoring them all these years?
3. Ignored because it's more convenient!!
4. Have been driving like invisible signs...no see...no do!

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely Yours,  
Priscilla Gemmiti

P.S. This chaotic exit pattern @ BHS is an accident just waiting to happen.

September 9, 2017

## Continue Attention Safety Committee

The request for improvement signage was sent to City Clerk but the “one way” Willard Street adjacent to BHS has been ignored for years...resulting in chaotic hazardous traffic flow in and around the neighborhood...needing stricter enforcement laws...not just school hours but 24 hrs/day. Why? Because cars and trucks turn left and go zooming back to Willard St. like bullets or turning left (waiting for busses) in neighbor’s driveway (one with children in the yard) for convenience with students running everyone darting in between cars and busses in disorderly manners!

A meeting with neighbors would be very helpful providing more details to the Safety Committee...and with BHS staff members to continue communication in the neighborhood community on Willard Street.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely Yours Truly,  
Priscilla Gemmiti

Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Councilor Higbee to accept the communication, place it on file, forward the correspondence to the Traffic Safety Committee for review, an acknowledgement to Ms. Gemmiti and forward copies to the Berlin Police Department, Berlin High School Administration and the Public Works Department. So moved, the motion carried.

### 8. Correspondence – Town of Dummer Zoning Board Public Hearing Notice

MUNICIPALITY NOTICE  
BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT, TOWN OF DUMMER, NH

Dear Berlin City Council,

Pursuant to RSA 12-K:7, If your municipality is hereby notified of a hearing to be held at:  
6:00 PM Wednesday, September 20, 2017 at the Dummer Town Hall concerning a request by BMB Vertical Assets, Inc. for a Variance concerning article V section 5.01.4 of the zoning ordinance which restricts structures to a 30 foot height limit. Applicant proposes to erect a telecommunications tower with a height of 190’ with appurtenances on the property located at 146 Ferry Road, Dummer, NH.

Signed, Christopher Miller  
Chairman, Board of Adjustment

Councilor Remillard moved with a second from Councilor Otis to accept the correspondence and place it on file. Councilor Higbee questioned why the City was being notified, and it was noted that the City is considered an abutter and legally has to be notified. So moved, the motion carried.

### 9. City Manager’s Report

1. At the urging of the City Council during the last budget process, the Library Trustees have increased fees for non-resident use of the Library from \$25.00 to \$35.00.
2. A reminder that the Governor’s Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) District 1 Public Hearing will be tomorrow Tuesday September 19<sup>th</sup> in the City Hall Auditorium. Public documents related to the Ten Year Plan can be viewed at:  
<http://www.nh.gov/dot/org/projectdevelopment/planning/typ/index.htm>

3. A reminder that the US EPA, NH Department of Environmental Services and the City of Berlin will be holding an informational meeting Tuesday, September 19, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at City Hall, for residents who would like to learn about the latest progress on site investigations at the Chlor-Alkali Superfund Site.
4. At their September 13th meeting, the Governor and Council authorized the Bureau of Construction to enter into a contract with Ray's Electric and General Contracting Inc. of Berlin, NH, for placement of a gateway sign, an interpretive sign, benches, historical district street signs, landscaping, and construction of a playground area in Berlin, on the basis of a single bid of \$228,579. They further authorized a contingency in the amount of \$22,857.90 for payment of latent conditions which may appear during the construction of the project. This work is historic mitigation work associated with the Rte. 110 Reconstruction Project.
5. Responses for the Request for Proposals for the Riverwalk Project are due Wednesday September 20th.
6. I attended a presentation by George Lagos, Executive Director of the New Hampshire Retirement Systems on Friday September 15<sup>th</sup> at the NH Municipal Managers meeting in Concord. I've attached two of the handouts from Mr. Lagos' presentation. One includes information on Employer contributions and another citing various fund financial metrics.
7. I will be at the Assessing Standards Board meeting on Friday September 22<sup>nd</sup> at which HB324 will be an agenda topic. HB324 includes the move for municipalities to be required to use NHDRA 83F utility valuations. In Berlin this would likely result in a decrease of utility values by almost 40% and a corresponding tax rate increase of approximately \$10. The ASB will be providing its findings the House Science, Technology and Energy Committee.
8. There will be a Berlin Recreation Hockey Development Meeting Hockey Tuesday, September 26th at Berlin Recreation Center starting at 6:00 p.m. Registrations for the upcoming 2017-18 season will be taken. There will be a hockey equipment swap, and there will be coordinators available to answer any questions about the hockey program. Berlin Recreation Hockey is open to any child age five to 15. Further details of season will be discussed on the 26th.
9. The PD statistics as reported to the Police Commission for July are attached.

Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Higbee to accept the City's Manager Report and place it on file. So moved, the motion carried.

**10. Mayor's Report –**

**Appointment Police Commission**

122 Harding Street  
Berlin, NH 03570  
September 6, 2017

Honorable Mayor and City Council  
City Hall, 168 Main Street

Berlin, NH 03570

RE: Reappointment to the Police Commission

Honorable Mayor and City Council:

Please accept this letter as confirmation of my interest in being reappointed to the Berlin Police Commission.

It was an honor to be appointed to the Commission to complete Tony Urban's unexpired term, and would be a privilege to continue serving the City and the community in this capacity.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions or concerns, or if you would like to meet with me, please do not hesitate to contact me at 752-1416.

Sincerely,

Pierre Morin

Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Higbee to reappoint Pierre Morin to the Berlin Police Commission for a three-year term to expire on September 30, 2020. So moved, the motion carried.

#### Proclamation

City of Berlin, NH  
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Maurice Wheeler served the City of Berlin for 44 years, first as a Public Works employee and then as its Public Works Director; and

WHEREAS, Maurice was an enthusiastic supporter of running having run two marathons as well as two Mount Washington road races among many other running events; and

WHEREAS, in 1986, the Berlin High School Track and Field teams were running on a painted track on the grass at Memorial Field; and

WHEREAS, runners and their coaching staff had a dream of a first class running venue in Berlin, NH; and

WHEREAS, Maurice Wheeler, in conjunction with Recreation & Parks, Berlin Public Works, the High School Athletic Department and a team of volunteers, was instrumental in the design and construction of a 400 meter stone dust running track at Berlin High School; and

WHEREAS, the running track was eventually paved, rubberized, and lined allowing runners to train on a professional surface in one of the most picturesque tracks in the State.

In Honor and in Thanks the Mayor and Council of the City of Berlin hereby proclaim that the Flag Ceremony at the 2017 Homecoming Celebration is dedicated to Maurice Wheeler – "He Made a Dream a Reality"

Councilor Rozek moved, with a second by Councilor Nelson, to accept the Mayor's Report and place it on file. So moved, the motion carried.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS - There were none.

12. Council Comments – There were none.

13. 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 8:20 P.M.

A True Record, Attest:

Elaine Riendeau  
City Clerk