

PUBLIC HEARING – JANUARY 3, 2017

Mayor Grenier opened the duly scheduled and advertised Public Hearing at approximately 7:46 p.m. to hear comments on the following subject matters:

Ordinance 2017-01 amending the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 19, Development relating to partial tax exemptions for new construction for industrial and commercial uses by eliminating Sec. 19-52. Sunset Provision.

Mayor Grenier asked for comments from the public; with none presented, the public hearing on the subject matter above closed at 7:47 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Tuesday, January 3, 2017

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:47 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. The pledge of allegiance to the flag preceded roll call. Present: Councilors Remillard, Otis, Gentili, Higbee, Rozek, Nelson and Theberge. Councilor Nelson was absent. Also present: James Wheeler, Susan Tremblay, and Barbara Tetreault

Minutes, Previous Meeting

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to accept the minutes of the December 19th Regular Meeting/Work Session. So moved, the motion carried.

Disbursements:

Disbursement Summary Draft #1780 start date 12/20/2016 end date 1/03/2017 for a total cash disbursement of \$889,554.98. Councilor Theberge moved with a second by Councilor Morgan Allain to accept the disbursement summary and pay all bills as recommended by the Committee on Accounts/Claims. So moved, the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Council Committee Reports – There was none.
2. Ordinance 2017-01 amending the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 19, Development relating to partial tax exemptions for new construction for industrial and commercial uses by eliminating Sec. 19-52. Sunset Provision. (Tabled 12/19/2016)

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Berlin, as follows:

WHEREAS, RSA 72:75-78 known as Commercial and Industrial Exemption authorizes municipalities in Coos County to offer property tax exemptions to foster commercial and industrial construction, and

WHEREAS, the City of Berlin is in need of additional commercial and industrial activity, diversification and employment.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Berlin that the Code of Ordinances of the City of Berlin is hereby amended as follows:

Amend Chapter 19, Development, by eliminating Sec. 19-52. Sunset Provision

~~Sec. 19-52. Sunset Provision.~~

~~—————In accordance with RSA 72:77-II., this Article will expire and become void after 5 tax years from the date of its adoption. However, any application for exemption which has already been granted prior to the expiration of such 5 tax year period will continue to apply at the rate and for the duration in effect at the time it was granted.~~

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

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

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

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

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to pass the ordinance. So moved the motion carried and Mayor Grenier declared the ordinance now passed.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Correspondence – UNH Community & Economic Development Update

Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Higbee that the communication received has been reviewed and placed on file and will be available for review by the public upon request. So moved, the motion carried.

4. Correspondence – North Country Council

December 23, 2016

City of Berlin
City Council
168 Main Street
Berlin, NH 03570

NCC is announcing the start of the biennial update of the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) & Ten Year Plan (TYP) for Fiscal Years 2019-2028.

History of the TIP & Ten Year Plan:

Every two years, North Country Council requests feedback and input from local officials to reaffirm their support for already programmed transportation projects, or to nominate new projects to be considered for inclusion in the State of New Hampshire's 10 Year Transportation Improvement Program (Ten Year Plan). The projects nominated from the region are incorporated into the Regional Transportation Improvement Plan, and eligible projects are considered for inclusion in the State's Ten Year Plan. The State's Ten Year Plan has been evaluated and revised in a two-year planning cycle since the early 1990's in compliance with federal guidelines. Regional priorities for transportation improvements are compiled by each of New Hampshire's nine Regional Planning Commissions (RPC) for consideration by the NHDOT and the Governor and Executive Council to create a Statewide Ten Year Plan. (A brochure of the TYP process from previous cycles can be found at the following link: http://www.nh.gov/dot/org/projectdevelopment/planning/typ/documents/Ten_Year_Brochure.pdf)

How to Reaffirm Support or Nominate a New Project:

Current Projects on the Ten Year Plan: If your community has existing projects listed on the current Ten Year Plan please provided a letter of local priorities to reaffirm your support for existing projects. If your community has more than one project currently in the Ten Year Plan please provide a prioritization of those projects in your letter. Please use the link below, or the list provided in this packet to determine what projects exist in your community.

NHDOT Ten Year Plan: <https://www.nh.gov/dot/org/projectdevelopment/planning/typ/documents/ApprovalTYP-CompleteBook6.24.16.pdf>

New Projects for consideration in the Ten Year Plan: To nominate a new transportation project for consideration in the 2019-2028 Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan please complete the project proposal sheet in paper form, or online. Online Project Proposal sheets are available to complete, and are located here: <https://goo.gl/forms/V9IHFL4JFOD7Maaw2>

Communities must fill out and submit the Project Proposal sheet and letter of community priorities no later than Friday March 3rd. It is critical that your town's information is submitted by that deadline so the NCC Transportation Advisory Committee can review, score, and prioritize projects in time to meet the deadlines set by NHDOT.

Availability and Focus of Funding:

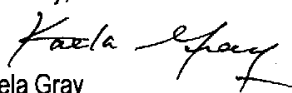
Federal and state transportation revenues have not kept pace with the demand for projects in New Hampshire. Therefore, there is a great deal of competition for limited funds. While NCC will work with each member community to consider the particular transportation needs in the region, NHDOT has informed NCC that it will heavily weight projects that address safety as a critical aspect of the state's transportation network during this cycle of the Ten Year Plan.

Despite the highly competitive nature of the Ten Year Plan process, communities nominating new projects should not hesitate to do so. Information on new projects can be included in the Regional Transportation Improvement Plan (RTIP). This process will introduce your new project into the "pipeline" and will improve your community's chances of eventually working its way into the TYP.

Guidance & Assistance with Proposals

Before completing the Project Proposal Form, please read through the enclosed supporting materials, and coordinate with other appropriate municipal officials as necessary. The supporting materials enclosed identify the criteria that will be used in project evaluation, and provide information on how to best complete the project proposal forms. For help with particular elements of a proposal, NCC staff are available to provide technical assistance in completing new project proposal sheets. Additionally, cost estimates could be done by engineers or possibly your local road agent. If you would like assistance, please contact Kaela Gray, kgray@nccouncil.org or at (603) 444-6303 ex. 12. Please note that because of the short deadline, it is important to ask for assistance ASAP as there are 51 communities in the NCC Planning Region.

Sincerely,


Kaela Gray
Transportation Planner

CC(via email): NCC Commissioner
NCC TAC Member
City Manager
Community Development Director

Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Higbee that the communication received has been reviewed and placed on file with a copy being forwarded to the Planning Board for their review. So moved, the motion carried.

The Council asked if the Hillside Street Bridge is included in this plan, Mr. Wheeler stated that the project has been funded through the TYP. Further discussion took place regarding the TYP and what the City had left for work that may be able to be included in this plan and was noted that the south end of Route 16 and/or the western end of Route 110. Councilor Rozek stated that the State of NH has not fulfilled its commitment to rebuild the Route 2 corridor even though this project was a direct result of the TYP.

5. City Manager's Report

1. We received one bid on 418 Church Street from Smithworks. Mr. Smith submitted the required plan with his bid of \$2,151.00 for the property and will be awarded the property sale for renovation.
2. A few days before Christmas, I was contacted by Health Trust about office furniture that was available to members free of charge. As it turns out there was an overwhelming response from communities and the Trust decided to offer the furniture by lottery. We were chosen first and were able to get desks, office chairs, typewriters and a bookcase at no cost.
3. January begins a new round of dog licensing. Tags should be available the last week of January. Rabies certificates need to be presented when registering. Adult un-neutered/spade dogs are \$9.00, spade/neutered and puppies are \$6.50, senior citizens (first dog) is \$2.00 and group licenses for 5 or more dogs licensed at the same time is \$20.00. All dogs are to be licensed by April 30th of every year. Further information can be reviewed on the City's website under the City Clerk's department, or call the office at 752-2340.
4. Lighting bids received for conversion of the Rte. 16 reconstruction project street lights to LED cobra heads were as follows:

Bidder	Unit Price per Light	Total for 64 Lights	Delivery Time
Ray's Electric	\$276.07	\$17,668.48	8-10 weeks
JA Coney	\$297.00	\$19,008.00	8-10 weeks
Northeast Electrical		\$15,360.00	4-6 weeks
Rockingham Electric	\$259.00	\$16,576.00	

Bids are currently being reviewed for compliance with the bidding requirements.

5. We received certificates of insurance covering the City and Airport for one million dollars. These are provided by the State of NH for all landowners who permit their land to be used for participation in OHRV trails.
6. Beginning January 1, the mileage rate issued by the IRS has gone down to 53.5 cents per mile from .54 cents per mile in 2016. The Council typically approves the new rate for City reimbursement purposes. This can be done a future work session.
7. Corrine Cascadden, Superintendent of Schools, reached out to see if a Council member is interested in participating in the NH Forum of Education and the discussion of consolidating city/town school districts.

Councilor Remillard asked if Smithworks will need to abide by code for the renovations of 418 Church Street. She was informed that Mr. Smith will have to follow a time line and city code.

Councilor Remillard stated that she may be interested in participating in the NH Forum of Education and asked for additional information. Councilor Rozek suggested that information be forwarded to Councilor Nelson as well.

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

5. Mayor's Report

Mayor Grenier stated that early Saturday morning, Tony Urban passed away. While permission would need to be received from his family, Mayor Grenier would like to have the City do something in his honor.

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

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

7. Council Comments – Councilor Rozek stated that there will be a Traffic Safety Committee meeting on Monday, January 9th at 5:30 pm.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Mayor and Council, Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Theberge to adjourn the regular meeting. So moved, the motion carried and Mayor Grenier declared the regular meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 P.M.

A True Record, Attest:

Elaine Riendeau
City Clerk