

PUBLIC HEARING – MONDAY, JULY 2, 2018

Mayor Grenier opened the duly scheduled and advertised Public Hearing at approximately 7:55 p.m. to hear comments on the following subject matters (informational packets were made available for the public):

Ordinance 2018-02 Adopting 79-e

Resolution 2018-18 CDBG Grant Berlin Housing Authority

Mayor Grenier asked for comments from the public. With no comments presented, Mayor Grenier closed the public hearing on the subject matters above at 7:56 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, JULY 2, 2018

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:57 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The pledge of allegiance to the flag preceded roll call. Present: Councilors Remillard, Otis, Morgan Allain, Rozek, Berthiaume, Gentili and Theberge. Councilor Higbee was absent. Also present: Jim Wheeler, Sue Tremblay, Pete Morency, Pam Laflamme, Mary Jo Landry and Barbara Tetreault, Berlin Daily Sun

Minutes, Previous Meeting

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to accept the minutes of the June 18th Regular Meeting/Work Session and the Work Session of June 25th. So moved, the motion carried.

Disbursements:

Disbursement Summary Draft #1817 start date 06/19/2018 end date 06/30/2018 for a total cash disbursement of \$1,367,145.56 and Disbursement Summary Draft #1819 with a start and end date of 07/02/2018 for a total cash disbursement of \$1,054,890.03. Councilor Theberge moved with a second by Councilor Berthiaume to accept the disbursement summaries 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. Ordinance 2018-02 R-1 Adopting 79-e (tabled 6/18/2018)

In the year of our Lord Two Thousand Eighteen

AN ORDINANCE amending the CODE OF ORDINANCES, Chapter 19, DEVELOPMENT, Art. II. Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive, Sec. 19-18. Definitions, *Qualifying Structure*

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

That Sec. 19-18 Definitions is hereby amended by adding reference to historic places.

Qualifying Structure. A building located in the Downtown Zone District as depicted in the official Zoning Map of the City of Berlin which is incorporated in the Zoning Ordinance of Berlin, NH. Qualifying structure shall also mean historic structures, regardless of location, that are listed on or determined to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places or the State Register of Historic Places

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 resolution from the table at this time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to amend the ordinance to include “qualifying structure shall also mean historic structures, regardless of location, that are.....”. So moved, the motion carried.
Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Morgan Allain to have the ordinance as amended 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 as amended 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 as amended. Roll call vote resulted all in the affirmative, the motion carried.

3. Resolution 2018-18 CDBG Grant Berlin Housing Authority (tabled 6/18/2018)

A RESOLUTION authorizing an application for a Community Development Block Grant in an amount up to Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) to be Sub-Granted/Loaned to Berlin Housing Authority, or an entity to be named, toward the cost of improvements to St. Regis, 421 Main Street. St. Regis is 42 units of affordable, elderly housing.

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

Whereas, up to Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) is available annually on a competitive basis for housing and public facilities that directly benefit low and moderate income persons; and

Whereas, if awarded, no less than Four Hundred Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$475,000.00) of the funds, or the benefits of, would be sub-granted/loaned to Berlin Housing Authority, or an entity to be named, to use toward the cost of improvements to St. Regis; and

Whereas, Berlin Housing Authority has managed this building in Berlin for many years and they continue to provide essential housing for the senior residents of the community; and

Whereas, the building is in need of many improvements; and

Whereas, up to Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) will be used to pay the City’s administrative, audit and legal costs.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved by the City Council of the City of Berlin as Follows:

That, the City Manager is authorized to apply for Community Development Block Grant in an amount up to Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) and upon approval of said application, the grant will be sub-granted/loaned to Berlin Housing Authority, or an entity to be named, and the City Manager is authorized to execute any documents which may be necessary to effectuate the CDBG contract, and any amendments thereto;

Be it further resolved that the City Manager is authorized to receive said grant and the grant proceeds are hereby appropriated for the purpose of the grant; and all grant proceeds shall be deposited with the City Treasurer and any additional use of these funds beyond the scope of work as listed in the application shall require prior approval of the City Council.

Be it further resolved that the City Council adopts the Residential Anti-displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan.

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

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

4. Resolution 2018-19 Opioid Abuse Reduction Initiative Grant

A RESOLUTION increasing the Police Department's Fiscal Year 2019 Opioid Grant Expense appropriation (30-420-908-9727) by Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00), to be offset by an additional Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) in Opioid Grant Revenues (30-364-602-0066) from the NH Department of Safety for the Opioid Abuse Reduction Initiative.

WHEREAS the Berlin Police Department participates in the ongoing Opioid Abuse Reduction Initiative and budgeted \$20,000 in anticipated grant funds for Fiscal Year 2019, and

WHEREAS the New Hampshire Department of Safety recognizes the severity of the opioid crisis and has provided \$30,000.00 in funding, to further support the continuation and expansion of successful partnership patrols and joint narcotics enforcement operations, and

WHEREAS opioid sales and abuse continue to cause 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;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Berlin, NH, that an additional ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) is hereby appropriated to the Berlin Police Department's Fiscal Year 2019 Opioid Abuse Reduction Initiative grant appropriation. Further, the above sum is appropriated in addition to all other previously-appropriated funds for Fiscal Year 2019 Budget and will be offset by an additional ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) in Opioid Abuse Reduction Initiative revenues.

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

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 suspend the rules that govern the body for Resolution 2018-19. Roll call resulted all in the affirmative.

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.

5. AFSME 3657 PD Contract

Year 1 of the contract provides for no salary increase. Year 2 provides for a 2% salary increase, which equates to \$48,540 with ancillary expenses. Year 3 provides for a 2% salary increase, which equates to an additional \$49,545 with ancillary expenses.

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second from Councilor Gentili to accept the proposed contract as presented between the City of Berlin and Local 3657. Councilor Theberge asked what the effect on everyone's taxes is if this contract is approved. Mayor Grenier stated that after the third year of the contract, it will add approximately \$0.25 on the tax rate. Roll call vote resulted as follows: Councilor Rozek – Nay, Councilor Berthiaume – Aye, Councilor Theberge – Aye, Councilor Remillard – Nay, Councilor Otis – Nay, Councilor Morgan Allain – Aye, Councilor Gentili – Aye, Mayor Grenier – Nay. The vote resulted in a tie, the motion failed.

6. Correspondence – Vicky McMorrow, NEMSI

Council received correspondence from Vicky McMorrow, Chief Operating Officer of NEMSI, which was read into the record. Ms. McMorrow is requesting permission for NEMSI to temporarily close that portion of Blanchard Street that borders their property (from Pine Street to Hillside Avenue). The request is for the period of August 2nd at 8:00 am and August 5th at 8 pm, which is this year's ATV Festival. They would like to be able to use the street for trailer parking for their respective renters that will be attending the festival.

Councilor Rozek moved, with a second from Councilor Berthiaume to accept the correspondence and approve the one time request from NEMSI and the temporary closure of Blanchard Street, from Pine Street to Hillside Avenue from August 2nd at 8:00 am to August 5th at 8:00 pm. So moved, the vote resulted in one vote “nay” vote from Councilor Otis, the motion carried.

7. Correspondence – Sylvia Poulin

Council received correspondence from Sylvia Poulin, Berlin Main Street Program, which was read into the record. Ms. Poulin is requesting permission for a locally produced craft beer to be sold at the regularly scheduled Community Market at Gill’s Park. The beer will not be sold for immediate consumption.

Councilor Rozek moved, with a second from Councilor Berthiaume to accept the communication and grant permission for Rek’lis Brewers to sell their locally brewed craft beer at the Berlin Community Market, with the following conditions: the City will receive a copy of the pertinent license needed to sell said craft beer and that all persons purchasing the product will produce a State Identification Card indicating that they are of legal age for said purchase. So moved, the motion carried.

8. City Manager’s Report

1. Skate Park Update – we are working with Sphon Ranch as they work to produce construction drawings for the project. This process is expected to take 3 to 4 weeks at which time construction will start.
2. At stakeholders meeting was conducted by the City, HEB an Ironwood Design Group on June 21st at the SCHP to further refine the project design. In addition, an electronic survey has been initiated and is available on the City’s website to collect additional stakeholder/public input. Over 300 people/entities have provided input to date.
3. The tax deeded Cates Hill property Map/Lot 406-0017 sold to Rick Dagesse for \$18,023.00
4. The PUC has issued an order giving Eversource the ability to replace utility poles and the connecting lines that cross the Androscoggin River at the Community Field location. The final order is effective July 6, 2018
5. The City’s Boiler Services contract was put out to bid and Mechanical Services was the successful bidder. They will clean all of the City’s boilers and provide repair service as needed. Their bid price was \$5,922. This is up last year from \$172.
6. The completion of the frame rail job for the Fire Department’s Engine 4 has been delayed by several weeks as the vendor that fabricates the rails is backlogged. The rails are scheduled to ship at the end of this week and Coastal will start the process of putting it back together shortly after that.
7. The Fire Department participated in the “Get Alarmed NH Program” installing smoke detectors. The program need will be completed by September 1st.
8. Chief Lacasse met with the northern NH representative of the NH Red Cross. They discussed the need for more volunteers in the North Country. There is a flyer attached with a web site with more information.
9. The final course of pavement is being installed on Howland and Grafton Streets this week. This is to repair damage from the October 2017 storm (FEMA Disaster Declaration).
10. There is a Fire Department activity report attached.

Councilor Rozek stated that he is shocked that during the decision making process of repairing FD Engine 4, that it would be taken apart without having the parts on hand to complete the repair. He feels that it is very wrong that this has transpired. He also asked when the Water Department gets done with streets and there is a trench patch, will they return to put the final coat on the repair. Mr. Wheeler stated that it will be completed so it is smooth.

Councilor Morgan Allain asked if there was still community involvement with the skate park. Mr. Wheeler said that while not constant, there have been positive comments on the projects Facebook page.

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

9. Mayor's Report

Mayor Grenier wanted to wish everyone a Happy and Safe Fourth of July.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS – There were no comments.

At approximately 8:30 pm, Councilor Rozek moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan Allain to move out of the Regular Meeting and back into Public Hearing. So moved, the motion carried.

Informational packets were made available to the public.

Mayor Grenier started the Public Hearing for the CDBG Proposed St. Regis Housing Improvements CDBG Project at approximately 8:31 pm.

Pam Laflamme stated Community Development Block Grant funds are available to municipalities up to \$500,000 for economic development, up to \$500,000 for public facility and housing projects, and up to \$350,000 for emergency activities. Up to \$12,000 is available per planning study grant. All CDBG projects must directly benefit a majority of low and moderate income persons or households.

The purpose of this public hearing is a proposed application to the Community Development Finance Authority for up to \$500,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds. Of the funds, \$475,000 will be subgranted/loaned to Berlin Housing Authority, or an entity to be named, for improvements, including roofing, mechanical, water and energy savings improvements, handicap accessibility improvements, etc. to St. Regis located at 421 Main Street, Berlin. St. Regis is 42 units of affordable, senior/disabled housing. All of the residents at St. Regis are of low or moderate income. The remaining \$25,000 will be retained for the City's administrative expenses. The total project cost is in excess of \$4 million.

This project conforms with Berlin's Housing and Community Development Plan's Goals of: Encourage a varied stock of safe, sanitary and decent and affordable housing for persons of all age and income groups.

Mayor Grenier asked if there were any questions on this matter. With no questions presented, he closed this portion of the Public Hearing

Mayor Grenier started the Public Hearing for the Residential Antidisplacement and Relocation Assistance Plan at approximately 8:33 pm.

Pam Laflamme stated if the City undertakes a CDBG project that involves displacement or relocation it will follow the Uniform Relocation Act. The URA outlines the measures they would take to find comparable, suitable housing for persons (or businesses) displaced or relocated.

If any temporary displacement or relocation of persons shall be required during this project, a unit on the premises will be made available until the original unit can be moved back into. The project will follow the antidisplacement plan if any displacement occurs.

Mayor Grenier asked if there were any questions on this matter. With no questions presented, he closed this portion of the Public Hearing

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second from Councilor Otis to adopt the Residential Antidisplacement and Relocation Assistance Plan. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second from Councilor Otis to approve the submittal of the application and vote to authorize the City Manager to sign and submit the application, and upon approval of the CDBG application, authorize the City Manager to execute any documents which may be necessary to effectuate the CDBG contract. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Councilor Morgan Allain to re-enter the Regular Meeting. So moved, the motion carried.

11. Council Comments – There were no comments.

12. Adjournment

At approximately 8:37 p.m. Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Berthiaume to adjourn the regular meeting. So moved, the motion carried.

A True Record, Attest:

Elaine Riendeau
City Clerk

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