

PUBLIC HEARING – FEBRUARY 6, 2017

Mayor Grenier opened the duly scheduled and advertised Public Hearing at approximately 8:12 p.m. to hear comments on the following subject matters:

Ordinance 2017-01 increasing the Police Department's Fiscal Year 2017 Public Safety Budget Appropriations as follows: Outside Overtime by \$45,750; Group II Retirement by \$12,070, and Social Security by \$663, to be offset by an additional \$65,000 in Outside Overtime Revenues.

Mayor Grenier asked for comments from the public; with none presented, the public hearing on the subject matter above closed at 8:12 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, February 6, 2017

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 8:13 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. The pledge of allegiance to the flag preceded roll call. Present: Councilors Remillard, Otis, Gentili, Rozek, Nelson and Theberge. Councilors Morgan Allain and Higbee were 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 January 16th Regular Meeting/Work Session and the January 23rd Work Session. So moved, the motion carried.

Disbursements:

Disbursement Summary Draft #1782 start date 1/14/2017 end date 2/3/2017 for a total cash disbursement of \$1,703,056.66. 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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Council Committee Reports

Councilor Rozek stated he received a letter from Jerry Nault, Chairman of the Berlin Police Commission. Councilor Remillard read the following letter into the record:

February 2, 2017

Councilor Rozek
Chairman
Traffic Safety Committee
168 Main Street
Berlin, NH 03570

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Police Department is requesting a blinking yellow traffic light at the intersection of Wight Street and Hillside Avenue. We feel that the addition of a traffic light will enhance pedestrian safety. The main concern is pedestrian traffic during school hours. We currently have a crossing guard at this location, but this might not always be the case.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Berlin Police Commission
Chairman Jerry Nault

Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Remillard to forward the communication to the Traffic and Safety Committee. So moved, the motion carried. Councilor Rozek also requested letter of acknowledgement be forwarded to Chairman Nault.

2. Resolution 2017-01 PD Outside Overtime Appropriation \$58,483 (Tabled 1/16/2017)

A RESOLUTION increasing the Police Department's Fiscal Year 2017 Public Safety Budget Appropriations as follows: Outside Overtime by Forty-Five Thousand, Seven Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$45,750.00); Group II Retirement by Twelve Thousand Seventy Dollars (\$12,070.00), and Social Security by Six Hundred Sixty-Three Dollars (\$663.00), to be offset by an additional Sixty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$65,000.00) in Outside Overtime revenues.

WHEREAS the Outside Overtime line item is funded by appropriation and offset with a corresponding revenue line item; and

WHEREAS the number of outside overtime details is unpredictable, and

WHEREAS the number of details executed since July 1, 2016, has been unusually high, and at 50% into the fiscal year, the Outside Overtime appropriation is 99% expended; and

WHEREAS additional outside overtime expenses and revenues are anticipated through June 30, 2017,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Berlin, NH, that the additional sum of Forty-Five Thousand, Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$45,750.00) is hereby appropriated to the Police Department Public Safety budget for payroll expenses related to outside overtime (01-424-116-3000); the additional sum of Twelve Thousand Seventy Dollars (\$12,070.00) is hereby appropriated to the Public Safety Group II Retirement appropriation (01-424-713-0001); and the sum of Six Hundred Sixty-Three Dollars (\$663.00) is hereby appropriated to the Police Department Public Safety budget for outside overtime benefit-related contributions. Further, the above sums are in addition to all other previously appropriated funds for the Public Safety Fiscal Year 2017 Budget and will be offset by Sixty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$65,000.00) in additional Outside Overtime revenues. (01-364-603-6004).

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

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

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

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

3. Resolution 2017-02 Accepting a Donation of \$5,000 for a UTV Trailer (1st Read)

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to table the resolution and schedule a public hearing on February 20, 2017. So moved, the motion carried.

4. Communication from Pierre Lessard re: School Zone at Brown School

From: Pierre Lessard [<mailto:unclepierre@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Friday, January 27, 2017 8:26 PM

To: Jim Wheeler <jwheeler@berlinnh.gov>

Cc: Lucie Remillard <LRemillard@CASANH.ORG>; Lucie Remillard <lucieremillard@gmail.com>; PAMELA Berlin Community Development LAFLAMME <plaflamme@berlinnh.gov>

Subject: Official Request to Berlin City Council - - - - if I may be so bold

The only "eight hours per business day" school zone I have ever seen is on Route 16 in front of Brown School. Most are 7:00 AM-to-9:00 AM and then 2:00 PM -to- 4:00 PM. Perhaps you folks should put a flashing amber light at the North end and at the South end of this school zone. power lines are readily available or 18" by 24" solar panels on top of each sign post would generate enough power to run timers and signals.

Seems to me like this would be a small investment to safeguard students.

If you want me to present this to the City Council I would be happy to do so. If you want me to shut up, I can do that too. Awaiting your response.

Pierre A. Lessard

"You're either part of the solution or part of the problem."
Eldridge Cleaver, 1968

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&
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cell 214.679.8154
unclepierre@yahoo.com

Mr. Wheeler stated that when this correspondence was received, he replied to Mr. Lessard's concern. Blinking lights for the school zone will be installed during the construction of Route 16. He brought the matter before the Mayor and Council as Mr. Lessard requested.

Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Council Otis to accept the communication, place it on file and a letter of acknowledgement be sent to Mr. Lessard that states this matter will be taken care of during the construction of Route 16. So moved, the motion carried.

5. City Manager's Report

1. North Country Council provided us the attached brochure entitled "Supporting Local Businesses: A Guide for Municipalities". Copies of the document are attached for your review. The Planning Board has done a works session with North Country Council using this guide.
2. In a Webinar to be held Wednesday, February 8 from Noon to 1:00 p.m. Stephen Byrnes, Staff Attorney at the NH Municipal Association will discuss issues related to public meetings under the Right-to-Know law. Among other things, the content will include what constitutes a public meeting, how to do proper noticing, telephone participation, minutes and non-public sessions. [Webinar Description and Registration](#)
3. Locally, the Berlin Daily Sun has been keeping us up to date on the Nansen Ski Jump renovation project. Attached is an article The Concord Monitor ran in their February 1st publication about the project. The article gives a good perspective from the contractor's point of view.

4. Health Department Update – I have been working with Mike Counter, President of North Country Home Health and Hospice on the process to transfer Berlin Home Health patients who choose to transfer to North Country. We are working to have the notification and transfer process completed around the end of February.
5. HB 324, the bill which would require municipalities to use the Department of Revenue Administration's valuations when assessing utility property was voted to be retained. The House Science, Technology & Energy Committee will keep the bill for a full house vote next year. In the meantime the Assessing Standards Board will study and make a recommendation on this bill.
6. Activity Reports attached include: Public Works monthly report for January; Police Department activity report for December and Fire Department Call Activity.

Mayor Grenier stated that HB 324 should be followed still because sometimes the House will pull bills back in at the end of their session.

Councilor Rozek stated that he is happy that the State is showing interest in the Nansen Ski Jump. He stated that in 1968 ABC Wide World of Sports was here filming. He suggested that ABC News be petitioned to see if the City could obtain a copy of the tape filmed.

Councilor Theberge asked if there should be a task force formed to review the fuel purchase and tracking methods. Mayor Grenier stated there is really no need to do so as Finance Director Patty Chase can provide the reports outlining the purchases. Councilor Theberge reiterated that he would like to see if CN Brown would be able to come to the City to fuel the equipment at the end of the work day.

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

6. Mayor's Report

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

8. Council Comments

Councilor Rozek asked if a list of available land owned by the City of Berlin could be made available.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Mayor and Council, Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Nelson to adjourn the regular meeting. So moved, the motion carried and Mayor Grenier declared the regular meeting adjourned at approximately 8:34 P.M.

A True Record, Attest:

Elaine Riendeau
City Clerk