

## **PUBLIC HEARING – FEBRUARY 20, 2017**

Mayor Grenier opened the duly scheduled and advertised Public Hearing at approximately 7:48 p.m. to hear comments on the following subject matters:

Resolution 2017-03 authorizing and application to the USDA Rural Business Development Grant Program for \$30,000 for technical assistance to determine the scope and feasibility of installing infrastructure in the downtown area to melt snow on streets and sidewalks in the winter months.

Mayor Grenier asked for comments from the public; with none presented, the public hearing on the subject matter above closed at 7:49 p.m.

## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, February 20, 2017**

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:50 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 Morgan Allain was absent. Also present: Pam Laflamme, Susan Tremblay and Barbara Tetreault

### **Minutes, Previous Meeting**

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to accept the minutes of the February 6<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting/Work Session and the February 13<sup>th</sup> Work Session. So moved, the motion carried.

### **Disbursements:**

Disbursement Summary Draft #1783 start date 2/4/2017 end date 2/17/2017 for a total cash disbursement of \$1,099,715.49. 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
2. Resolution 2017-02 Accepting a Donation of \$5,000 for a UTV Trailer (Tabled 2/6/2017)

**A RESOLUTION** accepting a Five Thousand Dollar (\$5,000.00) donation from Jericho Power, LLC towards a transport trailer for the Fire Department's Rescue UTV

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

Whereas, the Fire Department has a 2015 Polaris Ranger 900cc for use in rescue and wildfire suppression operations; and

Whereas, Jericho Power, LLC recognizes that the public would be better served and the vehicle would be more effective for Fire/Rescue Services if it could be trailered if necessary; and

Whereas, Jericho Power, LLC is donating \$5,000.00 towards a Transport Trailer with a value of \$13,800.00; with the remaining funds, \$8,800.00, coming from the Fire Department Capital Improvement account.01-495-995-1315.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Mayor and City Council accept a donation of \$5,000.00 from Jericho Power, LLC and that the donation is hereby appropriated to the Fire Department's 2017 budget for the purchase of a Transport Trailer for the Rescue UTV at the Fire Department.

Be it further resolved that the donation is in addition to all other previously appropriated funds for the Fire Department.

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 Theberge to have the resolution read a second time by title only. So moved, the motion carried.

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

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

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **3. Resolution 2017-03 USDA \$30,000 Grant (1<sup>st</sup> Read)**

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Seventeen

A RESOLUTION authorizing an application to the USDA Rural Business Development Grant Program for \$30,000.00 for technical assistance to determine the scope and feasibility of installing infrastructure in the downtown area to melt snow on streets and sidewalks in the winter months.

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

Whereas, there is grant money available from the USDA Rural Business Development fund; and  
Whereas, there are many benefits to having a snow melt system for streets and sidewalks in the downtown area including the economic benefits of having better access to city businesses during and after snowstorms, and

Whereas, if found to be feasible, the project would improve safety in our community, generate greater customer and sales volumes, reduce vacant lots on Main Street, and help increase wellness in our community as residents will have a safe and easily accessible walking area during the winter months, and

Whereas, the downtown is in need of inventive new ways to attract and retain commercial development; and

Whereas, there are two possible options for an affordable energy source for the snowmelt system: using waste steam generated from the Burgess Biomass plant and having a City-owned cogeneration plant which could be fueled with wood chips from the hundreds of forested acres owned by the City.  
Whereas, upon approval, the City Manager is authorized to receive said grant and the grant proceeds

are hereby appropriated for the purpose of the grant; and

Whereas, all grant proceeds shall be deposited with the City Treasurer and that any additional use of these funds beyond the scope of work as listed in the application shall require prior approval of the City Council.

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 a USDA Rural Business Development Grant \$30,000.00 for technical assistance to determine the scope and feasibility of installing infrastructure in the downtown area to melt snow on streets and sidewalks in the winter months, and the City Manager is authorized to execute any documents which may be necessary to effectuate the USDA contract.

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

Councilor Nelson moved with a second by Councilor Otis to recess the regular order of business. So moved, the motion carried.

Mayor Grenier opened the duly scheduled and advertised Public Hearing at approximately 7:58 p.m. to hear comments on the following subject matters:

Resolution 2017-03 authorizing an application to the USDA Rural Business Development Grant Program for \$30,000 for technical assistance to determine the scope and feasibility of installing infrastructure in the downtown area to melt snow on streets and sidewalks in the winter months.

Mayor Grenier asked for comments from the public; with none presented, the public hearing on the subject matter above closed at 7:59 p.m.

Councilor Higbee moved with a second by Councilor Otis to reemerge to the regular order of business. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Otis moved with a second by Councilor Remillard to amend the body of the resolution to state the year as Seventeen versus Sixteen. So moved, the motion carried.

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

Councilor Otis moved with a second by Councilor Remillard that the rules and regulations of this Council be so far suspended as to allow this resolution to be placed on its final passage at this time. Roll call resulted in affirmative votes of all Council members and Mayor. Mayor Grenier declared the motion passed.

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

Councilor Otis moved with a second by Councilor Higbee to pass the resolution as amended. Roll call resulted in affirmative votes of all Council members and Mayor. Mayor Grenier declared the motion passed.

4. Resolution 2017-04 Standardizing Fire Alarm System Components (1<sup>st</sup> read)

Councilor Theberge moved with a second from Councilor Nelson to table the resolution and schedule a public hearing on March 6, 2017. So moved, the motion carried.

5. Communication from Allen Strasser re: 75<sup>th</sup> CAP Squadron Financial Support

75<sup>th</sup> Squadron NH Civil Air Patrol

41 Littleton Road, PO Box 5  
Whitefield, NH 03598

February 10, 2017

Mayor and Council  
168 Main Street  
Berlin, NH

Dear Mayor and Council,

Over the past 25 years Northern New Hampshire has lost four Civil Air Patrol Squadrons and Berlin used to have one of the largest squadrons. Last spring a group of concerned citizens held a meeting at Mt. Washington Regional Airport to start a new Civil Air Patrol Squadron to retrieve some of the opportunities that young people ages 12 to 18 receive from the education and experience derived from all the opportunities taught at CAP.

Our squadron was formed with over 50 people within 60 days and currently has 34 cadets and 21 adult seniors who run the organization. We hold educational meetings weekly and add needed courses regularly. Recently we add manners and deportment as local students seemed to need improvement in this area.

CAP is composed of the required part paid for by the Air Force to provide Emergency services for lost aircraft, lost hikers, hurricane and storm pictures for FEEMA, Homeland security contracting, and all the services and education provided to local students. For NH those services include Rocketry (firing of real rockets); robotics, drill, volunteering their service, leadership training and flying powered aircraft and also gliders. The student part of this is a 501 (3) (c) NON-PROFIT CORP CHARTERED IN 1947. Next week for example a retired Army General teaches them leadership skills on Tuesday night.

Berlin should be the next place that CAP would form a unit, but you need the involvement to get people interested. I brought around the Warrant Article for Berlin to donate just \$600 per year which helps the cadet portion while the USAF provides all the aircraft, maintenance and fuel. I am writing directly to you because I was unaware that you did not use the warrant article system in your form of local government even though I have been elected five times to three positions in two states.

Please consider this small donation to stay in touch and be ready when the local leadership develops that will give your bright young people positive activities that keeps them away from drugs and alcohol. We discovered in our local meetings that people are really wanting more positive things for their children to be involved in. The USAF has been DRASTICALLY reduced and now use CAP to chase their drones, be involved in Red FLA, Green FLA and Maple Flag exercises.

Yours very truly,

LTC Allen E. Strasser, USAF retired, Squadron Commander. With 24 years in the USAF; 32 years as an Airline pilot. CAP has experience in motivating young people.

Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Councilor Theberge to accept the communication, place it on file and forward the request to the Berlin Airport Authority to be part of that budget. So moved, the motion carried.

6. City Manager's Report

**7.     Mayor's Report**

Mayor Grenier stated that he attended the public hearing in Whitefield regarding ATV trails and the Nash Stream area. There is an amendment proposed that would add 6.3 miles of ATV trails. The proposed trails are set to be on the southern border on the Stark town line. They do not go near any of the untouched pristine property. Mayor Grenier spoke on behalf of the City in favor of the amendment.

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

Mayor Grenier also stated that he will be attending a meeting regarding Northern Pass. He plans to speak on behalf of the City in favor of Northern Pass on specific items as outlined in the City's letter of support.

**8.     PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**9.     Council Comments**

Councilor Rozek stated that he would like to address the State regarding the State Aid Contracts for completed waste water projects. SB57 covers this matter. Councilor Rozek asked that a letter requesting the release of monies be sent to the Speaker of the House, Senate President, Governor and Councilor Joe Kenney.

**10.    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 8:19 P.M.

A True Record, Attest:

Elaine Riendeau  
City Clerk