

PUBLIC HEARING – JUNE 5, 2017

Mayor Grenier opened the duly scheduled and advertised Public Hearing at approximately 7:32 p.m. to hear comments on the following subject matters:

Resolution 2017-08 authorizing the Berlin Police Commission to apply for and receive funds for any and all purposes from the New Hampshire Highway Safety Agency for Highway Safety Project Grants for Fiscal Year 2018.

Mayor Grenier asked for comments from the public; with none presented, the public hearing on the subject matter above closed at 7:33 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, June 5, 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 Morgan Allain. Councilor Theberge was absent. Also present: Susan Tremblay and Barbara Tetreault

Minutes, Previous Meeting

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to accept the minutes of the May 15th Regular Meeting/Work Session, the May 22nd Work Session and the May 24th Public Hearing. So moved, the motion carried.

Disbursements:

Disbursement Summary Draft #1790 start date 5/16/2017 end date 6/5/2017 for a total cash disbursement of \$1,634,086.74. Councilor Nelson 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 – There were none.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Council Committee Reports – There were none.
2. Resolution 2017-08 NH Highway Safety Grants (Tabled 5/15/2017)

A RESOLUTION authorizing the Berlin Police Commission to apply for and receive funds for any and all purposes from the New Hampshire Highway Safety Agency for Highway Safety Project Grants for Fiscal Year 2018.

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

WHEREAS voluntary compliance of bicycle, scooter, and skateboard laws is a problem in Berlin, particularly in the downtown area; and

WHEREAS DWI offenses are problems in Berlin; and

WHEREAS speed and traffic light avoidance are problems which create unnecessary risk for pedestrian traffic, and designated patrols are needed for enforcement; and

WHEREAS the New Hampshire primary child passenger safety law requires that all children up to the age of four be restrained and properly secured in an approved child passenger safety seat, and everyone up to the age of 18 use a seat belt; and

WHEREAS operation of OHRVs on public ways is a concern; and

WHEREAS distracted driving during morning and evening commutes is a statewide problem requiring increased public awareness that distracted driving will not be tolerated; and

WHEREAS information is available to teach young, inexperienced drivers specific educational experiences that focus on the behavior of vehicles, their limits of operation, and the effectiveness of seat belt use in the operation and occupancy of a motor vehicle, as they do not realize the limitations of vehicles or the harmful impact that alcohol may have on their ability to safely operate a vehicle; and

WHEREAS the NH Highway Safety Agency funds local projects to promote such enforcement and education.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Berlin, NH, that the Berlin Police Commission is hereby authorized to apply for and receive funds for Highway Safety Project Grants. Said funds granted to the City of Berlin will be used for the purpose of meeting the expenses directly included in the purposes of the grants during Fiscal Year 2018.

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

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

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

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

3. Resolution 2017-09 Fiscal Year 2018 Budget (1st read)

Councilor Remillard moved with a second from Councilor Otis to table the resolution and schedule a public hearing on June 19, 2017. So moved, the motion carried.

4. Communication re: First Avenue Sidewalk Plowing

May 19, 2017

Dear Mayor & City Council
164 Main Street
Berlin, NH 03570

We are requesting that in the winter, we would like to have the sidewalk plowed in front of our home, at 502 First Avenue. We were told we are not on the list to be plowed and that there is no sidewalk in front of our house.

We are enclosing pictures showing that the sidewalk starts at the edge of our driveway and continues on. The pictures also show the first step needs to be repaired, it is part of the sidewalk. We will remove the board & lawn on the inside edge of the sidewalk. This will make the sidewalk wider, with no fear of injury to the plow operator.

This is important as I am handicap and need ambulance access to our front door. Also we would like to have the snow removed from the front of our house. When snow is removed by Public Works, they remove snow on sidewalk side of Laurel & Shepard St. and then at the far end of Gerrish St. and down First Avenue from there.

If you have any questions, please call us at 752-4056.

Thank you kindly
Roberta Fortier
George Fortier

Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Councilor Remillard to accept the communication, place it on file, forward the correspondence to the Traffic Safety Committee for review and send an acknowledgement to the Fortiers. So moved, the motion carried.

5. City Manager's Report

1. Vaillancourt Electric will once again be providing electrical services on a contract basis for the upcoming fiscal year.
2. The street light project along Main Street is nearly complete with one LED fixture remaining to be installed.
3. Memolo Construction performed the removal of highly degraded ridge poles on the 5 Heritage Park buildings and capped them with cedar boards.
4. The Public Works Department purchased a sidewalk tractor from the City of Portland ME with a v-plow, dump body and spreader. The final purchase price was \$38,400.
5. Sherry Young, who currently works as an account clerk, will be promoting to the Payroll/Benefits Specialist position at the end of July.
6. The Hillside Avenue Bridge design plans are currently being reviewed by NHDOT. Once the final review is complete we will make a determination on the prudence of bidding for construction this year or next year.
7. The PD statistic report and a PWD are report attached.
8. Recently, Councilman Rozek inquired about potential damage to 12th St Bridge decking. The current theory is that the damage was caused by chains on municipal equipment.

PWD is systematically eliminating the use of chains and replacing them with tires that do not require chains. This should minimize damage in the future.

9. I will be at the NH Municipal Manager conference in Keene on June 14 through June 16.
10. Two decisions issued by the Supreme Court on Friday affirmed prior BTLA decisions related to the Appeal of New Hampshire Electric Cooperative and the Appeal of Public Service Company which questioned the municipal utility values assigned to their facilities in many communities. The decisions criticized the values calculated by the utilities expert as well as the DRA's value set for RSA 83F purposes. These decisions are important in light of retained HB 324 which seeks to legislate that all municipalities use the DRA 83F utility values. The Assessing Standards Board is currently gathering information to provide the Science, Technology and Energy Committee regarding utility assessment practices.
11. SB38 which provides for increases in municipal highway block funding and SB57 which provides for state aid grant funds for water and wastewater projects have passed the House with slight amendments being made. The Senate may or may not request a Committee of Conference in light of the changes.
12. Attached is a summation of Presidential budget cuts provided by the National League of Cities including commentary on how the cuts may affect communities.
13. Given that the 4th of July falls on the first Tuesday of the month I thought it would be worth confirming the Council meeting date for that week.

Councilor Higbee questioned the number of calls to Milan that the Police Department has logged noting that it seems like a large increase. Mr. Wheeler stated that he would check in with Chief Morency and get back to them via email with the information.

Councilor Rozek asked if item number 11 would affect the City. Mr. Wheeler said that the City is still on the list. Further discussion took place regarding infrared equipment for asphalt repair. At this time, Public Works has not been able to get any companies, as they are limited, to agree to let the City try it to see how it works. The City is looking at the possibility of purchasing this equipment for future maintenance. It was agreed that a member of Public Works would need to see how it works to ensure that it will be a good fit for maintenance.

Mr. Wheeler also asked the Mayor and Council how they wanted to handle the first meeting in July as it is July 3rd. It was agreed to reschedule the meeting to Wednesday, July 5th.

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

6. Mayor's Report

Mayor Grenier reviewed a piece of correspondence received from Martha Creegan of the Planning Board. In the correspondence, Ms. Creegan submitted her resignation notice from the Planning Board. She has served the Planning Board for many years and will be missed.

Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Councilor Higbee to regretfully accept Martha Creegan's resignation from the City's Planning Board. So moved, the motion carried.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS - There were none.

8. Council Comments

Mr. Wheeler asked the Mayor and Council about meeting on Monday, June 12th, if the current outstanding union contract needs to be voted on. The contract must be voted in during a regular meeting. It was agreed that if necessary, a regular meeting will take place on June 12, 2017.

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 7:59 P.M.

A True Record, Attest:

Elaine Riendeau
City Clerk