

City Council Work Session
March 22, 2021

At 6:30 p.m. Mayor Grenier opened the meeting. Due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04 this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to the meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, this is to confirm that we are:

- a) *Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means;*

We are utilizing the Zoom platform for this electronic meeting. All members of the Council have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through the Zoom platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the following phone # 1-646-558-8656, meeting ID 825 5519 2317; Passcode 613032, or by clicking on the City Council agenda on the City's website, www.berlinnh.gov.

- b) *Providing public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting:*

We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, including how to access the meeting using Zoom or telephonically. Instructions have been provided on the City of Berlin's website of the Council at City Council-agendas

- c) *Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access:*

If anybody has a problem, please call Pam Laflamme at 603-752-8587 or e-mail at: plaflamme@berlinnh.gov

- d) *Adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting*

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, we will adjourn the meeting and have it rescheduled at that time.

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by Roll Call vote. By roll call, each member is to state their presence, and whether there is anyone in the room during this meeting, which is required under the Right to Know law.

Present at roll call were: Councilors Remillard, Higbee, Eastman, Theberge, Berthiaume, Morgan, and Otis who acknowledged that they were alone in their respective rooms; Mayor Grenier was at City Hall with City Manager James Wheeler. Councilor Rozek was absent.

Others present included Head Librarian Ann Brungot, Development Director Pam Laflamme, Finance Director Holly Larsen, City Clerk Shelli Fortin, Berlin EMS owner Will Rosenberg, Barbara Tetreault, *Berlin Daily Sun* and members of the public.

Library

Ms. Brungot shared a PDF presentation of the 2022 Budget which included: Services, Resources, On-site digital resources, Remote digital resources, Patron Statistics (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020), Resource statistics, Book statistics, Budget request percentage changes, Kelley Park and capital improvement target areas.

Mayor Grenier discussed with Mr. Wheeler funds for capital improvement. Councilor Eastman and Councilor Remillard advised the library capital improvement areas should be prioritized and asked if there were any grants available for the capital improvements. Ms. Laflamme will look into possible grants.

Ambulance

Berlin EMS new owner, Will Rosenberg, discussed improvements made since the acquisition back in December 2020. They were able to hire 90% of the existing staff and offer them health Insurance benefits. Other improvements included but not limited to: Installation of camera system in vehicles, new phone/security system, new beds, new flooring and new uniforms for the staff. They did some training with the fire department and also worked in collaboration with the police department to install a new EMS system which will expedite response time. Councilor Berthiaume asked if reports were still being done as the previous owner provided. Mr. Rosenberg advised that with the new software in place, he can easily extract any reports and provide the Council with any data they wish.

Housing

City Manager James Wheeler directed the Council to page 34 of the budget. Housing budget remained flat, the only items with and increase are: health insurance, retirement benefits and the city owned properties. Most of the cost associated with the city owned properties were related to Brown School including but not limited to: Electricity, Heating and Maintenance. Mayor Grenier mentioned that some of the cost related to Brown school should be covered by Covid Funds. Councilor Remillard requested a list of all city owned properties left. Mr. Wheeler stated he would provide the list.

WMCC/BWW Lot Line Adjustment

Ms. Laflamme explained that the WMCC is selling 300 acres of property across the street from the college campus itself. The BWW owns a small parcel which is surrounded by the college on 3 sides. The BWW placed a water reservoir on this small parcel built specifically for the Coos County Nursing Home. It was discovered while survey work was done that the structure owned by BWW was placed outside the BWW parcel and on the land of the college for reasons unclear. After speaking with the surveyor, WMCC and BWW, the City of Berlin would like to do a lot line adjustment and just shift the parcel over to include the structure. This would not include money or land exchange, just correcting the boundaries. Ms. Laflamme informed the council that this can be done tonight with their approval. There is no need for resolution, just a vote. Councilor Remillard moved to approve moving forward with the lot line adjustment; Councilor Higbee seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call.

BTLA Decision

Mr. Wheeler requested to meet in non-meeting with Attorney Boldt before reviewing the agenda item regarding BTLA in public session. Mayor Grenier commented that Councilor Eastman would not be joining the meeting due to conflict of interest. Councilor Higbee moved with a second from Councilor Theberge to go in non-meeting per RSA 91-A:2, I.(c) Legal Consultation. The motion carried unanimously by roll call.

Non-meeting resumed. Councilor Remillard moved to table item #3 of the agenda till the Wednesday March 24th meeting; Councilor Higbee seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call.

Councilor Higbee moved to adjourn; Councilor Morgan seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call. The meeting ended at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Danielle Rioux
Executive Assistant

*Minutes are unofficial until they have been accepted by the City Council by motion