

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, April 19, 2021

Regular Meeting

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 8:03 p.m. via Zoom, pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, Section 8 and Emergency Order #12, Section 3.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Grenier, Councilors Remillard, Otis, Morgan, Eastman, Higbee, Rozek, Berthiaume, and Theberge
Absent: None

Also present: James Wheeler, Pamela Laflamme, Deputy Chief Daniel Buteau, Danielle Rioux, Barbara Tetreault, Berlin Daily Sun

c. Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to accept the minutes of the April 7, 2021 Regular Meeting and Work Session and April 12, 2021 Work Session. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee – yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier - yes

Disbursements:

Disbursement Summary Draft #1885 start date 04/06/2021 end date 04/19/2021 for a total cash disbursement of \$988,803.87. Councilor Theberge moved with a second by Councilor Higbee to accept the disbursement summary and pay all bills as recommended by the Committee on Accounts/Claims. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee - yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier - yes

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Council Committee Reports

There were no Council Committee Reports.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Resolution 2021-13R Night Vision 2022 (1st read)

Councilor Theberge moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to table the Resolution and schedule a public hearing for May 3, 2021. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume- yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

3. City Manager's Report

1. Attached please find a communication from Kevin LaChapelle of Industrial Protection Systems, IPS. IPS is the vendor who provided the new Self Contained Breathing Apparatus to our Fire Dept. It is nice of Mr. LaChapelle to take the time to note his very positive experience at the BFD.
2. The private property transfers for the month of March are attached.
3. While we are still awaiting more specific guidance from the US Treasury on how American Recovery Funds can be used, attached is an excerpt from some Frequently Asked Questions which outline four

broad categories of use. The latter two categories seem like the more likely areas for municipal funding. More information is expected from the Treasury in the coming weeks.

4. Attached is notification from NHDES of the approval of a DERA grant for our snow blower and garbage packer purchases. The grant is expected to reimburse the City \$44,076.

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

Councilor Theberge asked about the land sales on the report. City Manager Wheeler advised that the sale price is listed, along with the total assessed value. Councilor Theberge asked about the sale price notation 1E+05, which City Manager Wheeler is advised is exponential notation, which means \$100,000. Mayor Grenier advised there are items listed that are not arm's length transactions, as some people have put property into a trust.

Councilor Higbee noted the letter from Kevin LaChapelle and the nice words he said about our Fire Department.

So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee – yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

4. Mayor's Report

a. Planning Board Appointment – Thomas McCue

Dear Mayor Grenier and City Council,

During the month of April terms for Planning Board members are renewed. Realizing late last fall this would mean that the board would be facing another issue with the board's own bylaws and provision for term limits, the board decided to review and possibly revise its bylaws. The Planning Board just voted at its April 6th meeting to amend its bylaws and made a number of small, procedural changes to bring its bylaws up to date as they hadn't been amended since 1998. They also voted to do away with term limits. We have a had a number of members have to step down from the board or move down to the position of alternate voting member due to this provision over the years.

This change means that Tom McCue, who has been with the Planning Board now for three terms, will be able to continue with the board if the Mayor and Council vote to renew him as a regular voting member for another three year term. He did however step aside as chairman and the board voted in Lori Langlois as the new Planning Board chairperson – whose father, Lucien Langlois, served on the Planning Board and as chairperson many years ago.

- **Thomas F McCue** – Three-year term to run from May 2021 until April 20, 2024, regular board member.

Christina Lefebvre, whose term also expires this month, is not seeking another term as a Planning Board member. Christina has been an active board member and will be missed for her contributions and time invested in the community.

We thank you all for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Pamela Laflamme
Community Development Director

Councilor Rozek moved, with a second from Councilor Morgan, to approve the Mayor's re-nomination of Thomas McCue as a regular member of the Planning Board with a term to expire April 30, 2024. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

6. Council Comments

Councilor Rozek asked if the Council would begin to meet in person again after all members have been vaccinated. Mayor Grenier advised that their first in-person meeting is scheduled for the Public Budget Hearing on May 26, 2021

7. Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Rozek, seconded by Councilor Higbee, the Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 pm. So moved, the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Higbee – yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

A True Record, Attest:

Shelli Fortin
City Clerk

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