

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Tuesday, July 6, 2021

Public Hearing

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 7:50 pm for Resolution 2021-18 NH Institute of Museums and Library Services Grant. There were no public comments. Mayor Grenier closed the Public Hearing at 7:50 pm.

Regular Meeting

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:50 p.m.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Grenier, Councilors Remillard, Otis, Eastman, Higbee, Rozek, and Theberge

Absent: Councilors Berthiaume and Morgan

Also present: City Manager James Wheeler, Finance Director Holly Larsen, Library Director Ann Brungot, Jennifer Lazzaro, Leonard Gallagher, and William Carroll, Berlin Daily Sun.

c. Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to accept the minutes of the June 21, 2021 Regular Meeting and Work Session, and June 28, 2021 Work Session. So moved, the motion passed.

Disbursements:

Disbursement Summary Draft #1890 start date 06/22/2021 end date 06/30/2021 and Summary Draft #1891 start date 07/01/2021 end date 07/06/2021 for total cash disbursements of \$596,595.07 and \$993,389.86 respectively. Councilor Theberge moved with a second by Councilor Remillard to accept the disbursement summaries and pay all bills as recommended by the Committee on Accounts/Claims. So moved, the motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Leonard Gallagher of 17 Glen Avenue shared concern about what he considers to be Berlin's number one crisis, which is the condition of the streets. Gallagher asked if there was a plan in place to start raising money to repair the roads in Berlin. Gallagher noted that obviously the City cannot start tomorrow and that it would probably take \$100 million to repair all the streets, however many streets are becoming impassable. Gallagher stated that work on vehicles is expensive and that damage to them is partly due to the condition of the streets. It is costing residents money to make repairs.

Mayor Grenier advised there is no current official plan in place for 2023 to raise funding beyond what is currently in place in the budget.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Council Committee Reports

There were no Council Committee Reports.

2. Resolution 2021-18 NH Institute of Museums and Library Services Grant (tabled 6/21/2021)

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty One

A RESOLUTION authorizing an application to the 2021 New Hampshire Institute of Museums and Library Services (IMLS) ARPA Sub-Grant #1 for \$3,797 and, upon approval, appropriated to Fund 30 for use by the Berlin Public Library as described herein to the FY2022 Berlin Public Library Budget.

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

Whereas, the Berlin Public Library's has revised its processes to ensure continued service to the public in light of CDC guidelines relative to COVID-19; and

Whereas, since public events such as the Summer Reading Program have been moved outdoors to Kelley Park with limited seating; and

Whereas Kelley Park's proximity to Main Street/fire department to our west, the Androscoggin River to our east, and being surrounded by multi-level buildings to our north and south, our outdoor space receives significant external noise; and

Whereas, the Library will further adapt its gated, outdoor area for both adult and children's programming and to do so, they will need to purchase additional furniture, a PA system, and external noise barriers.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Berlin, NH that an application to the NH IMLS ARPA Sub-Grant #1 be hereby authorized. Upon approval of the grant, \$3,797 shall be appropriated to the Fund 30 for use by the Berlin Public Library to the FY 2022 Berlin Public Library budget for the purpose of the grant.

Be it further resolved that the City of Berlin accepts the terms of the grant and grant agreement as presented and that the City Manager is authorized to do all things necessary to effectuate the grant.

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

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to remove this item from the table. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to read Resolution 2021-18 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to read Resolution 2021-18 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, that Resolution 2021-18 be passed. So moved, the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

3. City Manager's Report

1. Attached is an Order and Hearing notice from the BTLA for a hearing to be held in person on June 29, 2021. This hearing is in response to a recent filing by the DRA who is requesting adjustments to values in the 2020 update that they believe result from data used in the 2018 update. It is my understanding that we have answered the BTLA's prior order as requested. The current items cited by the DRA are admissible given that the DRA and the BTLA agreed to keep the docket open for items related to the 2020 update.
2. Works by DHI Construction on the Pollution Control Ejector Station project including mechanical, controls and perimeter fencing work is now substantially complete.
3. The Fire Department Incident Report for the Month of June is attached.
4. Attached is the property transfer list for June 2021. The trend of a robust market continues.

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

Councilor Remillard asked about the fire department calls to assist the ambulance and why they were helping with so many. Shelli Fortin advised that it is the policy for dispatch to send both the ambulance and fire department to certain calls from 911 that are more serious.

So moved, the motion carried.

4. Mayor's Report

a. Letter from Julia Brennan re: Blind Driveway Sign

City Council:

Address: 637 Western Avenue

I am requesting a blind driveway sign be put up just above my driveway on top of hill, so that oncoming traffic is aware there is a driveway. This was not really a big problem, say 5 years or so ago, but in recent years with more and more traffic, I have had some close calls.

Thank you for your time and consideration for a blind driveway sign.

Thank you,
Julia Brennan
John Tate

Councilor Rozek moved, with a second from Councilor Higbee, to accept the communication from Julia Brennan and John Tate and to send acknowledgement, remand to the Traffic Safety Committee for review, and forward a copy to the Police Department and Public Works Department. So moved, the motion carried.

Mayor Grenier advised that he took a drive around all areas of the community and advised there is a problem with furniture, garbage, tires, and appliances on the sidewalks. Mayor Grenier advised that the City will need to coordinate with the Police Department and use funds from Council Contingency if needed to notify owners that it has to be cleaned up. City Manager Wheeler will work with Public Works to generate a list so that they can enforce the municipal regulations.

Councilor Remillard also noted that residents need to be reminded that garbage cannot be put out the night before pickup, just the morning of.

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.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

6. Council Comments

There were no Council comments.

9. Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Rozek, seconded by Councilor Higbee, the Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm. So moved, the motion carried.

A True Record, Attest:

Shelli Fortin
City Clerk

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