

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, July 19, 2021

Regular Meeting

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:23 p.m.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Grenier, Councilors Remillard, Otis, Eastman, Berthiaume, and Theberge

Absent: Councilors Higbee, Rozek, and Morgan

Also present: City Manager James Wheeler, Community Development Director Pamela Laflamme, City Clerk Shelli Fortin, Robert Haynes, Steven Korzen, Paul Martineau, and William Carroll, Berlin Daily Sun.

c. Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to accept the minutes of the July 6, 2021 Regular Meeting and Work Session. So moved, the motion passed.

Disbursements:

Disbursement Summary Draft #1892 start date 07/07/2021 end date 07/19/2021 for a total cash disbursement of \$1,340,719.47. Councilor Theberge moved with a second by Councilor Berthiaume to accept the disbursement summaries and pay all bills as recommended by the Committee on Accounts/Claims. So moved, the motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Robert Haynes of 293 Church Street mentioned the Work Session discussion about the Fire Department responding to medical calls to assist the ambulance, and asked who would be responsible if a firefighter was to be injured, the City or the ambulance service. Haynes also mentioned that it might be helpful for the Fire Department to have another smaller vehicle for response to smaller calls, such as medical calls. Haynes also invited the Mayor and Council to attend a free community, "Welcome to Our City", breakfast on July 31, from 8:00-10:30am at the Salvation Army on Cole Street.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Council Committee Reports

There were no Council Committee Reports.

NEW BUSINESS

2. City Manager's Report

1. Attached is a press release regarding the Berlin Hazard Mitigation planning effort. The release will be posted on City boards and the City website. The next planning meeting is scheduled for August 12th at 10:00 AM via Zoom.
2. The contract signing for the Mason St. Bridge repairs is scheduled for tomorrow at 1:00 PM.
3. We are conducting interviews for construction engineering services for the Riverwalk Project on Tuesday July 20th.
4. As of the end of June, the Phase 2 Contract 1 I&I project is approximately 40% completed.
5. Attached, please find information from Eversource regarding upcoming improvement work to the Goebel Street Sub-station. Representatives from Eversource will be meeting with us on Thursday of this week to update us on the project.
6. The City Tax Deeded Property Sale is listed at:

<https://www.berlinnh.gov/home/news/tax-deeded-property-sale-august-2021>

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

Councilor Theberge asked about the Eversource update to the Goebel Street sub-station and City Manager Wheeler stated they will know more after the meeting on Thursday, but assumes it will be equipment replacement. City Manager Wheeler directed Councilor Theberge to the handouts in the City Manager's report for further information.

So moved, the motion carried.

3. Mayor's Report

Mayor Grenier congratulated the Berlin-Gorham 12 and under baseball team for winning the State championship last week and wished them luck in the regional competition.

Mayor Grenier advised that he received a call from Congresswoman Kuster last Friday advising that the \$600,000 for the Mason Street bridge project was included in the Infrastructure bill that will be going to the Senate for passage. She suggested sending letters of support to Senator Hassan and Senator Shaheen to keep the funding in the final bill. Mayor Grenier requested that City Manager Wheeler send the letters in support.

Councilor Theberge moved, with a second from Councilor Berthiaume, to accept the Mayor's Report and place it on file. So moved, the motion carried.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

5. Council Comments

Councilor Berthiaume asked about minimum bids on the tax-deeded properties for sale, and City Manager Wheeler advised they are included on the bid forms.

Councilor Eastman asked for an update on the DOT urban compact on Route 110. City Manager Wheeler advised that they have asked for an estimate of 30-year costs, and received numbers from Bill Cass, but do not have the draft agreement yet. City Manager Wheeler will ask about the time frame for this.

Councilor Eastman asked about the Route 110 TIF district, and Pamela Laflamme advised that the Arnett Development Group has been working on a final version to bring to the Council in August.

Councilor Eastman asked about the Public Works Director's position, and City Manager Wheeler advised that they do have some applications and will be moving forward with interviews.

Mayor Grenier advised that he and City Manager Wheeler will be representing the City at the Coos County Delegation meeting on July 26 in support of the engineering grant for Route 110.

6. Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Theberge, seconded by Councilor Otis, the Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 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.