

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, August 16, 2021

Regular Meeting

Councilor Remillard called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:44 p.m.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Roll Call

Present: Councilors Remillard, Otis, Eastman, Higbee, Rozek, and Berthiaume

Absent: Mayor Grenier, Councilors Theberge and Morgan

Also present: City Manager James Wheeler, Community Development Director Pamela Laflamme, City Clerk Shelli Fortin, and William Carroll, Berlin Daily Sun.

c. Councilor Otis moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to accept the minutes of the August 2, 2021 Regular Meeting and Work Session. So moved, the motion passed.

Disbursements:

Disbursement Summary Draft #1894 start date 08/03/2021 end date 08/16/2021 for a total cash disbursement of \$812,849.11. Councilor Berthiaume 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 passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Council Committee Reports

There were no Council Committee Reports.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Resolution 2021-19 Great Northwoods Community Foundation Donation

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to table the Resolution and schedule a public hearing for September 6, 2021. So moved, the motion carried.

3. City Manager's Report

1. Attached is the property transfer list for July 2021.
2. The City's tax card database is now online and open/available to everyone. <http://gis.vgsi.com/berlinnh/Default.aspx>. There currently is not a link on the City website. It will be included on the City's homepage which is currently being updated and should be live in a couple weeks.
3. Attached please find the BWW – Municipal Water Usage from April 1, 2021 to July 2, 2021 (August 2021 Billing Quarter).
4. A preconstruction meeting for this project was held on August 16, 2021.
 - The bridge will be closed from about August 23rd until mid-October.
 - Vehicular traffic will have to use either the Cleveland Bridge or Twelfth Street Bridge to cross the river.

- The span that will be worked on is the western span near City Hall. This span will be closed to pedestrian traffic.
- It is our intent that pedestrians or people parking in the Tondreau lot can walk over the walkway near Toni's Pizza to get to Main St.

The contractor, RM Piper, will be utilizing message boards and signage as needed to direct traffic.

5. As planned, we recently migrated to a new server which involved several changes including migration to MS Office 2019. I'd like to thank Pam Laflamme for dedication in making this upgrade happen. I'd also like to thank the staff for patience in working on the system during the migration.
6. On a related note, the City currently has an RFP out for Computer Technology Services due on August 24, 2021.
7. Also, the Finance Director is currently working on an RFP for finance software packages to replace the expiring Munismart Software the City currently runs.
8. The Structural Reinforcement of the Fire Station Floor project is currently out to bid with bids due on September 2, 2021.

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.

Councilor Remillard noted that the on-line tax cards are wonderful.

4. Mayor's Report

- a. Letter from Debra Berntsen re: Trash Pickup

City of Berlin: Mayor

I am writing to ask if it would be feasible for the Public Works department, when doing their trash collection around the Eversource Park, could pick up the trash bags if left at the curb?

There is a small group of us that walk in the park early mornings on a daily basis. We go armed with small plastic bags to collect the debris that has been left in the park over the past day. Yesterday we left with two full bags!

Over the past couple months someone has been leaving large green trash bags at both entrances to the park and people have been using them to discard their trash. The problem is that no one seems to have taken responsibility to remove them when full. Yesterday we removed one down by the autopart store and lugged it through the park, up the stairs, and onto Main Street. Why? Because one of the walkers had called to inquire if Public Works department could pick up the trash on the curb if left there on Tuesdays. The response was that this wasn't a routine pick up site and it was suggested we bring the bag out to Main St. Well, we did that yesterday. What a fiasco! The bag was full, heavy and here we were lugging it through the park, upstairs, and onto Main St.

Today, I collected the bag from the entrance off of Mason St. Again, another heavy bag. I won't go into how disgusting it was but just know I had to remove the blanket and other items from my trunk to wash them as the bag leaked. I brought it home to put curbside with my trash.

We enjoy walking the park and do our part to keep it clean and enjoyable for all to use. Would it be at all possible to have Public Works pick up the trash bag if we left it out curbside on Glen Ave and Mason St.? If this isn't feasible, what can we do to make something work that doesn't include us dragging it to Main St or our homes?

We sincerely appreciate your attention to this concern.

Debra Berntsen
662 Trudel St.
Berlin, NH 03570

Councilor Rozek moved, with a second from Councilor Berthiaume, to accept the correspondence from Debra Berntsen, send an acknowledgement to her, and to have the City Manager contact Central Rivers Power, since the land belongs to them, and let the Council know how they respond.

Councilor Eastman noted that they may be able to drop the garbage curbside if Public Works drives by.

So moved, the motion carried.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

6. Council Comments

Councilor Eastman noted that he received a call last week from someone who is interested in the old Woolworth's building. The developer is interested in housing on the second floor, and either retail or housing on the first floor. They are also interested in the city owned property next door for parking. This would save the City money for demolition of the building and another empty lot. Councilor Higbee noted that this is how economic development works, that it happens by itself. City Manager Wheeler noted the sales list included in the City Manager's report and stated that is also why.

7. Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Rozek, seconded by Councilor Higbee, the Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 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.