

City Council Work Session February 19, 2018

Present were: Mayor Grenier, Councilors Otis, Gentili, Theberge, Rozek, Higbee, and Morgan Allain
Councilors Remillard and Nelson were absent.

Others present: City Manager Jim Wheeler, Corrine Cascadden, Mike Perreault, Pam Laflamme, Barbara Tetreault, *Berlin Daily Sun*, Berlin Boy Scout Troop 207 and several members of the public

Mayor Grenier opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. He thanked the members of the Berlin Boy Scout Troop 207, and adults, for attending the meeting, noting that it is very important to be engaged in local events.

Brown School Finalist NH Elementary School of Excellence – Corrine Cascadden

Corrine Cascadden, Superintendent of Schools, stated that Brown School staff applied for an award for the NH Elementary School of Excellence. They have made it through the first round and are awaiting results on from the second round of three. Ms. Cascadden shared the short video that was made for the entry. Ms. Cascadden noted that Governor Sununu mentioned Berlin in his state address. She also updated Council on the status of the two most recent grant applications for BHS.

Solid Waste Discussion

Jim Wheeler, City Manager, gave the floor to Mike Perreault, Public Works Director. Mr. Perreault presented the Council with an outline of solid waste as it pertains to non-profit and commercial trash pickup. The ordinance was last updated in 2012, it allows up to 2 yards of volume or 240 pounds. Mr. Perreault explained that the Coos County Nursing Home takes approximately a half hour to forty-five minutes to pick up their trash, which currently equates to 1.32% of the solid waste budget. Since he has taken the opportunity to research this matter, he figured out that approximately 40% of the solid waste picked up by the City is for non-profit and commercial businesses. Messrs. Perreault and Wheeler have both researched a pay as you throw system for solid waste. Mr. Wheeler stated that this method would be a way to recapture expenditures. He estimates that if this method was in place that the City could reduce the tax rate by approximately \$1.60. Mayor Grenier stated that he is not quite sold on this method yet. Further discussion took place, and it was agreed that the non-profit and commercial businesses that create an excessive amount of waste will need to obtain other means for trash pick-up. Mr. Wheeler will begin the process of notification of those non-profit/commercial properties with excessive solid waste of the City's intention to discontinue pick-up.

Assistance to Firefighters Fire Gear Grant

Mr. Wheeler stated that the grant is for firefighter gear and equipment. The total cost would be \$270,711, and the grant will cover 95%. This leaves an outstanding balance of \$13,000 for the City. Councilor Rozek asked Mr. Wheeler if the department would consider being part of the local mutual aid contract, noting that the department may be eligible for more grants. Mr. Wheeler stated that he would have the Chief come in to discuss the matter.

SB577 Requiring the PUC to Consider its Order Affecting the Burgess BioPower Plant

Mr. Wheeler stated that there was a Public Hearing the following morning at 9:00 am in Concord to review SB577, which he plans on attending, and presented the Council a draft letter for the hearing. With the permission of the Council he would like to represent the City and attend the public hearing and testify on its behalf. Councilor Theberge moved, with a second by Councilor Rozek to have the City Manager testify on behalf of the Council on this important piece of legislation. So moved, the motion carried.

Other

Councilor Rozek asked to have a letter to the Mayor and Council read into the record. Mr. Wheeler read said letter from local business people and investors: Steven Binette and Denis Binette, Ray's Electric & General

Contracting, Inc.; Michael Caron, Caron Building Center; Lisa Nast, Dalton Mt. Motorsports; Robert A. Chapman, Sr., Chapman Development, a copy of which has been placed on file. Councilor Rozek stated that he is just getting involved with the information in the letter. Further discussion took place regarding the steps taken when new businesses would like to come to Berlin. It was agreed that Pam Laflamme, Director of Planning, will inform the Council when there is activity for new business.

At this time, Mayor Grenier welcomed Paul “Poof” Tardiff to the meeting. He stated that Mr. Tardiff has always conducted himself with a high degree of respect and integrity. As a teacher and mentor, when Mayor Grenier decided to run for Mayor, one of the first things on his agenda was to change the City Seal back to be more like it was originally with the smoke stacks. Poof wrote letters in favor of supporting the change, and for that he will be forever thankful for Poof’s help. Mayor Grenier read a Proclamation into the record naming Paul “Poof” Tardiff as Berlin’s Official Historian.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Grenier opened the duly scheduled and advertised Public Hearing at approximately 7:45 p.m. to hear comments on the following subject matter:

Resolution 2018-03 Authorizing an Application to the FAA & NHDOG for AIP Project *Runway/Taxiway Improvements, Obstruction Removal, and Replacement of Airport Signage*.

Mayor Grenier asked for comments from the public.

With no comments presented, Mayor Grenier closed the public hearing on the subject matter above at 7:46 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, February 19, 2018

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:47 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium. The pledge of allegiance to the flag preceded roll call. Present: Councilors Otis, Morgan Allain, Higbee, Gentili, Rozek, and Theberge. Absent: Councilors Remillard and Nelson. Also present: Jim Wheeler, Corrine Cascadden, Pam Laflamme, Mike Perreault, Berlin Boy Scout Troop 207, several members of the public and Barbara Tetreault, Berlin Daily Sun

Minutes, Previous Meeting

Councilor Theberge moved with a second by Councilor Higbee to accept the minutes of the February 5th Regular Meeting/Work Session and the February 12th Work Session. So moved, the motion carried.

Disbursements:

Disbursement Summary Draft #1808 start date 2/3/2018 end date 01/16/2018 for a total cash disbursement of \$723,883.00. 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.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – There were none.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Council Committee Reports – There were none.
2. Resolution 2018-03 Authorizing an Application to the FAA & NHDOT for AIP Project *Runway/Taxiway Improvements, Obstruction Removal, and Replacement of Airfield Signage*

A RESOLUTION authorizing the Berlin Airport Authority to apply for and accept a grant for \$633,333.00 from the Federal Aviation Administration and the NH Department of Transportation for “Runway/ Taxiway Improvements, Obstruction Removal, and Replacement of Airfield Signage” at the Berlin Regional Airport

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

Whereas, funding for Runway/Taxiway Improvements, Obstruction Removal, and Replacement of Airfield Signage” is available through the Federal Aviation Administration and NHDOT, and

Whereas, the runway pavement at the Berlin Regional Airport is experiencing areas of gaps and separation; and

Whereas, pavement markings are faded and need to be repainted; and

Whereas, signs are faded and need to be replaced, and

Whereas, the Berlin Regional Airport will be responsible for 5% of total project costs, or \$33,333.00 which will be paid for by the Berlin Airport Capital Improvement Budget; and

Whereas, the grant will pay for 95% of the project costs, with 90% (\$600,000.00) being paid by the FAA; 5% (\$33,333.00) by the NHDOT.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

That the Berlin Airport Authority is authorized to apply for and receive \$633,333.00 of grant funds from the Federal Aviation Administration and the NH Department of Transportation for “Runway/Taxiway Improvements, Obstruction Removal, and Replacement of Airfield Signage” at the Berlin Regional Airport and upon receipt, these funds are hereby appropriated to the Airport Fund.

Be it further resolved that the Chair of the Berlin Airport Authority, Paul Grenier, 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 Higbee moved with a second by Councilor Morgan Allain to remove the resolution from the table at this time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Higbee moved with a second by Councilor Morgan Allain to have the resolution read a second time by title only. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Higbee moved with a second by Councilor Morgan Allain to have the resolution read a third time by title only. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Higbee moved with a second by Councilor Morgan Allain to pass the resolution. So moved, the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Resolution 2018-04 Authorizing an application to the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program for \$270,711 for Firefighters’s Personal Protective Gear and Vehicle Extrication Tools (1st read)

Councilor Higbee moved, with a second from Councilor Morgan Allain, to table this matter and schedule a public hearing for Monday, March 5th. So moved, the motion carried.

4. City Manager’s Report

1. There are three properties, including buildings, out for bid at this time including 650 Blais Street, 723 Third Ave. and 340 Church Street. Bids are due February 22nd at 2:00 p.m. The minimum bid for each property is \$20,000.
2. There will be a Skatepark Design Workshop Thursday, February 22 beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Berlin High School Cafeteria. Our design-build contractor, Spohn Ranch, will be there facilitate the workshop.
3. The Hillside Avenue Bridge project is moving along with permits being sought from NHDES. Abutters have been notified that plans are available for viewing at the City Clerk's Office during normal business hours. The application to NHDES is to acquire a dredging/filling permit for work in 567 square feet of area as part of the proposed bridge replacement.
4. The Milan Planning Board will be holding a public hearing at 7:15 p.m. Thursday, March 1st, to review an application for a 7 acre subdivision out of a 39 acre parcel owned by the Berlin Airport Authority. The 7 acre subdivision to be sold to Bob Chapman. This should be one of the final steps before closing on the sale. York Land Services will present the application on behalf of the BAA.
5. Ads for a Wastewater Superintendent and Public Works Director are out. The WW Superintendent closing date is Friday February 23rd and the PWD Director is Thursday March 15th.
6. The Berlin Recreation Center and Berlin Bowling Center offer Cosmic Bowling during school vacation Wednesday, February 28 from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. Any age or ability can join! Register at Berlin Recreation Center, First Avenue, or call Berlin Bowling Center.
7. We are looking for nominations for the Berlin Volunteer Award Tree. If you know someone in the community that is making a difference with their volunteerism, send in a nomination by March 16th to Terry Letarte at tletarte@berlinnh.gov. Here is a link to the [nomination form](#).
8. At their February 16th meeting the Assessing Standards Board voted to recommend a formula to the House Ways and Means Committee to be used to value PUC regulated electricity, gas and water distribution facilities. This formula is in response to pending legislation under HB1381, which seeks to set values at the net book price of a facility, and HB324, which seeks to set value at the State RSA 83F value. Both of these methods would result in an approximate decrease of 40% in the City's value of these facilities. The recommended formula will result in an approximate 12% decrease. It is our hope that a Study Commission will be formed under HB324 which will further study formula options before final legislation is considered.

Councilor Rozek asked if the businesses in the Hillside Avenue area will be notified of the construction and possible interruption of business. Mr. Wheeler stated that the necessary businesses will be notified and well as kept informed during the construction process.

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

5. Mayor's Report

- Proclamation – Mayor Grenier completed the presentation prior to the start of the regular meeting.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS –

A member of the public asked what happens to properties out for bid if no one bids on them. Mr. Wheeler said that they generally go back out to bid. Council decides whether or not the same terms are kept.

7. Council Comments – There were none.

8. Adjournment

Councilor Rozek moved, with a second from Councilor Higbee to move into non-public session, pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II(d) Land Matters, at approximately 8:07 P.M. Roll call resulted all in the affirmative, the motion carried.

Councilor Rozek moved, with a second from Councilor Higbee, to seal the minutes of the non-public meeting. So moved, the motion carried.

There being no further business before the Mayor and Council, Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Higbee to adjourn the regular meeting. So moved, the motion carried and Mayor Grenier declared the regular meeting adjourned at approximately 8:40 P.M.

A True Record, Attest:

Elaine Riendeau
City Clerk

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