

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Tuesday, July 5, 2022

Public Hearing

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 7:32 pm for Resolution 2022-25 Great Northwoods Community Foundation Donation. There were no public comments. Mayor Grenier closed the Public Hearing at 7:33 pm.

Regular Meeting

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:33 pm.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Grenier, Councilors Remillard, Morgan, Higbee, Robert Theberge, Roland Theberge, and Morency

Absent: Councilors Eastman and Berthiaume

Also present: City Manager Phillip Warren, Jr, Community Development Director Pamela Laflamme, City Clerk Shelli Fortin, Lori Korzen, Steven Korzen, Jan Zicha, Janet Tremblay, and Paul Robitaille, Berlin Daily Sun.

c. Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to accept the minutes of the June 20, 2022 Regular Meeting and Work Session. So moved, the motion passed.

Disbursements:

Disbursement Summary Draft #1915 start date 06/21/2022 end date 06/30/2022 for a total cash disbursement of \$2,660,966.62 and Disbursement Summary Draft #1916 start date 07/01/2022 end date 07/05/2022 for a total cash disbursement of \$96,766.40. Councilor Roland Theberge moved with a second by Councilor Morgan to accept the disbursement summaries and pay all bills as recommended by the Committee on Accounts/Claims. So moved, the motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jan Zicha of 255 Pleasant Street raised concerns about the cost of property taxes along with including the school portion of taxes with the City. Mr. Zicha also noted that the local indoor swimming pool is now closed to the public and asked if one could be built for residents to use, possibly with a grant.

Janet Tremblay of 812 Second Avenue stated that Officer Dennis Gale came to her home in May because her son was parked on the sidewalk, and that Officer Gale stated that he was in the area because complaints had been made to City Hall about parking in that area. Ms. Tremblay did not think that he should have said that. Ms. Tremblay also noted that a truck was parked in that area for about a month with garbage in it, and it was just moved on Friday. Ms. Tremblay noted that they still have cars parked close to the corner and it is a safety problem.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Council Committee Reports

There were no Council committee reports.

2. Resolution 2022-25 Great Northwoods Community Foundation Donation (tabled 6/20/2022)

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Two

A RESOLUTION authorizing the City of Berlin to accept a donation from the Great Northwoods Community Foundation in the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) for the purpose of use in projects and programs that advance the health and well-being of its Citizens for Fiscal Year 2022.

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

WHEREAS the Great Northwoods Community Foundation wishes to make a \$20,000 donation to the City of Berlin; and

WHEREAS the City of Berlin recognizes the use of this donation in projects and programs that advance the health and well-being of its Citizens; and

WHEREAS the City of Berlin recognizes the Public Benefits of improving recreation opportunities for its Citizens which aligns with the foundation's vision of promoting health and well-being.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Berlin, NH, that the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) is hereby appropriated to be deposited in Revenue Account #30-368-601-0004 for the City of Berlin Fiscal Year 2022 budget, in addition to all previously-appropriated funds, for the use in projects and programs that advance the health and well-being of its Citizens. Said projects and programs shall be approved by City Council.

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

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

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to read Resolution 2022-25 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to read Resolution 2022-25 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, that Resolution 2022-25 be passed. So moved, the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. City Manager's Report

1. This office is working with Micah Bachner to resolve issues regarding the disc golf proposal – those issues concern maintenance, liability and permitted use of the Central Rivers property. Pam is taking the lead on these and has been in contact with Micah to resolve same.
2. As a reminder, Traffic and Safety will meet next Monday – the issues brought to the council's attention will be discussed.
3. The Airport Commission met last week to discuss the proposed lease with the National Guard. The plan is to present lease proposals and parameters to the Guard with the goal being an eventual lease document.
4. Our line painting contractor was supposed to stripe roadways last week and did not show up. Staff contacted them and they could not offer a good reason why the work was not performed and offered dates to perform the work. By contract the work was supposed to be done by June 30.
5. Riverwalk project going well, the only concern is potential lead time for items such as lighting – these items may require a winter shutdown of the project and completion would occur in early 2023.
6. Mason Street Bridge – the funding for the work is being directed through NH DOT instead of direct to the city. The impact of this action is that the work on the bridge would need to be designed and bid consistent with DOT standards, which would add to the project cost and not get done this year. It was suggested by DOT staff that we direct these funds to another project. This office recommends that the bridge project be funded in the 2024 budget and the 600k in funds anticipated be applied to another project, but not roadway resurfacing, since the design requirements would use up funds unnecessarily (road resurfacing does not require design).

City Manager Warren also advised that the drainage issue on Daley Road has been taken care of. Mr. Warren stated that he would like the City to put in place a preventive maintenance plan for drainage, which they do not currently have.

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

Councilor Remillard asked where we go from here with the painting, and City Manager Warren advised that he will be having a discussion with the vendor. Mr. Warren advised there were no local firms that provide line painting, as it requires a special truck.

Councilor Remillard also asked about the funds for the Mason Street Bridge. City Manager Warren advised that since the funds are from the Federal Highway Administration, they have to go to NHDOT, and follow federal and state guidelines.

Councilor Morgan asked about the Traffic and Safety Committee meeting, and was advised it is scheduled for July 11, 2022.

So moved, the motion passed.

1a. Ratification of Labor Agreement

Mayor Grenier advised that the City Manager informed the Council in non-meeting that they have a tentative agreement with IAFF Local 1088 for a 3-year contract.

Mayor Grenier read the cost items into the record:

Year 1 4% Salary Increase	\$20,709.76
Year 2 3% Salary Increase	\$6,504.98
Year 3 3% Salary Increase	\$4,544.78

Mayor Grenier noted that the increase in salary is offset by a change in insurance plans which the union agreed to accept.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to accept the cost items of the tentative agreement between the City of Berlin and IAFF Local 1088 to be effective August 1, 2022. So moved, the motion passed.

2. Mayor's Report

a. Letter to Traffic Safety Committee from Pam Bouchard

RE: Yellow striped no parking area corner High St and School St

I must commend as well as thank you for taking action and painting the grid stripes on the corner of School and High St in an effort to prevent a potentially fatal accident at that obstructed intersection.

However, driving into that intersection from School Street on Monday, June 20, I realized the yellow stripes were one whole grid short of where the previous single line went. There was a van parked at the westerly end of the grid and 2 more cars parked in front of it. This just about completely obstructed my view as I tried to inch my way across the intersection and I still could have been easily t-boned.

I honestly feel that another full grid should be painted and added to the current grid in an effort to make the intersection much safer. If the van had been a large SUV or if the other 2 vehicles were any larger, I would probably still be there trying to creep my way through the intersection today trying to see around vehicles. Please add another grid and try to make it safe for all, not just me. The original line was paved over.

Thanks!

Pam Bouchard

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second from Councilor Higbee, to remand the letter from Pam Bouchard to the Traffic and Safety Committee for their meeting next Monday, and to send a communication to Ms. Bouchard advising of the meeting and inviting her to attend. So moved, the motion carried.

b. Planning Board Appointment – Lori Korzen

Mayor Grenier and City Council,

Recently, I was made aware of an open seat on the Planning Board as an alternate. I respectfully submit this letter of interest to volunteer for this position. My husband and I have lived in Berlin for over 20 years, we raised our family here and have come to love this city and its people. I believe that Berlin is a city that has many strengths and is full of potential.

Prior to my stroke, I served this community as an Advanced Emergency Medical Technician both here in Berlin as well as in Gorham, where I was also in charge of all of the Accounts Receivable for the Gorham EMS Department. I worked closely with both the public as well as medical insurance companies and was the HIPAA Compliance Officer.

Since my stroke, I have been working hard through physical, occupational, and speech therapy which has been a long and hard road. I am finally in a place in my life when I feel as though I may be ready to reenter public service and use what gifts and talents I have to better my community.

Respectfully, I would be honored to volunteer for the Planning Board and look forward to seeing growth in our community.

Sincerely,

Lori Korzen

Councilor Higbee moved, with a second by Councilor Roland Theberge, to accept the Mayor's nomination of Lori Korzen as an alternate member of the Planning Board with a term to expire April 30, 2023. So moved, the motion carried.

c. BIDPA Appointments

Mayor Grenier & City Council:

The terms of four BIDPA board members will expire at the end of July. Three of these board members wish to serve another three-year term. BIDPA has a solid group of board members and these individuals are an integral part of the board. The board supports their continued involvement with the BIDPA if the Mayor & Council agree.

- **Richard Huot**– Three-year term to run until July 31, 2024.
- **Richard Eastman** – Three-year term to run until July 31, 2024.
- **Andre Duchesne** – Three-year term to run until July 31, 2024.

We would like to acknowledge and thank both Roland Olivier and David Poirer for their time and service to the BIDPA board. They were both valued members who each gave many contributions to the City that are appreciated by both the board and the staff. Mr. Olivier will be relocating year-round to Florida and Mr. Poirier has decided it is time to step down from the board. Mr. Poirier has been a BIDPA board member since 2008. We wish them both well with their future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Pamela E Laflamme
Community Development Director

Councilor Roland Theberge moved, with a second from Councilor Morgan, to approve the Mayor's nominations of Richard Huot, Richard Eastman, and Andre Duchesne as members of BIDPA, for three year terms to expire July 31, 2025. So moved, the motion carried.

3. Public Comments

Lori Korzen of 788 Kent Street thanked the Council for their vote and stated she is grateful for the trust they have put in her. Ms. Korzen also advised the Council that they have had between 60-66 kids each day for the free lunch program and thanked the Council for the use of Community Field.

Janet Tremblay of 812 Second Avenue stated she is glad to see the building down on the corner of Second Avenue, and asked when it would be finished. Mayor Grenier advised that they are taking all the buildings down first, and then will be back to landscape, as it requires different equipment. Mayor Grenier noted that it should be done before Labor Day.

4. Council Comments

There were no Council comments.

5. Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Higbee, seconded by Councilor Morgan, the Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 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.