

## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, March 20, 2023**

### **Regular Meeting**

Councilor Higbee called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:34 pm.

#### **a. Pledge of Allegiance**

#### **b. Roll Call**

Present: Councilors Morgan, Robert Theberge, Higbee, Berthiaume, Morency, Roland Theberge and Eastman

Absent: Mayor Grenier and Councilor Remillard

Also present: City Manager Phillip Warren, Jr, Director of Strategic Initiatives Pamela Laflamme, City Clerk Shelli Fortin, Chief Daniel Buteau, Dep. Chief Nathan Roy, Rep. Corinne Cascadden, Micah Bachner, Amber Bachner, Lori Korzen, and Lisa Connell, Berlin Daily Sun.

**c.** Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to accept the minutes of the March 6, 2023 Regular Meeting and Work Session, and the Budget Meeting of March 13, 2023. So moved, the motion passed.

#### **Disbursements:**

Disbursement Summary Draft #1933 start date 03/06/2023 end date 03/20/2023 for a total cash disbursement of \$1,058,806.48. Councilor Roland Theberge moved with a second by Morgan 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**

##### **1. Ordinance 2023-02 Zoning Manufactured Housing (1<sup>st</sup> read)**

Councilor Robert Theberge moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to table the first read of the Resolution until April 3, 2023. So moved, the motion carried.

##### **2. Resolution 2023-04 Byrne JAG DTF PD (1<sup>st</sup> read)**

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Morency, to table the Resolution and schedule a public hearing for April 3, 2023. So moved, the motion carried.

##### **3. Resolution 2023-05 Substance Abuse PD (1<sup>st</sup> read)**

Councilor Roland Theberge moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to table the Resolution and schedule a public hearing for April 3, 2023. So moved, the motion carried.

##### **4. Resolution 2023-06 Highway Safety PD (1<sup>st</sup> read)**

Councilor Roland Theberge moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to table the Resolution and schedule a public hearing for April 3, 2023. So moved, the motion carried.

##### **5. Resolution 2023-07 Homeland Liaison Officer PD (1<sup>st</sup> read)**

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Morency, to table the Resolution and schedule a public hearing for April 3, 2023. So moved, the motion carried.

**6. Resolution 2023-08 NHF&G OHRV PD (1<sup>st</sup> read)**

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Morency, to table the Resolution and schedule a public hearing for April 3, 2023. So moved, the motion carried.

**7. Resolution 2023-09 Walmart Community PD (1<sup>st</sup> read)**

Councilor Morgan moved, with a second by Councilor Berthiaume, to table the Resolution and schedule a public hearing for April 3, 2023. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Roland Theberge asked how much the Walmart Community Grant is for, and Chief Buteau advised it is up to \$5,000.

**8. Resolution 2023-10 LEMHWA (1<sup>st</sup> read)**

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Morency, to table the Resolution and schedule a public hearing for April 3, 2023. So moved, the motion carried.

**9. Resolution 2023-11 ARPA Salt Shed (1<sup>st</sup> read)**

Councilor Roland Theberge moved, with a second by Councilor Morency, to table the Resolution and schedule a public hearing for April 3, 2023. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Higbee noted that he appreciates the Police Department and Fire Department applying for grant money to supplement tax dollars.

**10. City Manager's Report**

1. Attached is the Fire Chief's February report, the Monthly Incident Report and the EMS call volume report.
2. Attached is the February 2023 Property Transfer list.
3. Also attached is the 2022 AVRRDD Budget Report.
4. Per City Ordinance Sec. 15-81, City's parking ban will be lifted 4/1/23. During the month of April, the Police Chief is authorized to prohibit parking on City streets between the hours of midnight and 7:00 AM if required for snow plowing and removal operations.
5. The City's CMOM report has been filed with both DES and EPA. This report covers the capacity, management and operations of the sewer collection and treatment system. Next steps are to update our industrial discharge permits and process – at present we have agreements with industrial dischargers and DES prefers a permit-based system. After that we will be moving toward a comprehensive review of sewer ordinances.
6. As the winter weather subsides DPW staff will be starting to analyze and classify the condition of our sewer collection system, identifying critical areas of need. Staff has been trained on both use of the camera and how to classify underground assets, using industry standard grading. The benefits are twofold – damaged areas that may cause backups can be identified as well as sources of inflow and infiltration.

Councilor Roland Theberge asked if the salt shed would be similar to the one for AVRRDD, and City Manager Warren advised it will be a fabric covered metal structure.

Councilor Morency moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to accept the City Manager's Report and place it on file. So moved, the motion passed.

**11. Mayor's Report**

- a. BIDPA Appointment – Amber Bachner

Dear Mayor Grenier and City Council:

I am interested in serving on the Berlin Industrial Development & Park Authority. A position on the board has become available, and I would like to fill that vacancy. As a budding entrepreneur, I am very active in several community organizations, and am devoted to volunteering my time and energy to elevating Berlin and my community. As a young female business owner, artist, and social networker, I feel I would be an asset to the board.

I am told the term would run through the end of July 2024. I would appreciate the opportunity to serve the City of Berlin in this capacity.

Sincerely,

Amber Bachner

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Morency, to approve the nomination of Amber Bachner as a member of the Berlin Industrial Development & Park Authority with a term to expire July 31, 2024. So moved, the motion passed.

## **12. Public Comments**

Micah Bachner of 59 High Street commended the Berlin Public Works Department for doing a great job with the snow removal this season.

## **13. Council Comments**

Councilor Berthiaume asked about the comfort dog program mentioned in Resolution 2023-10. Chief Buteau advised that the grant would cover this program, but they are still looking into the feasibility of it and advised it is not confirmed.

Councilor Morency thanked City Manager Warren and Director of Strategic Initiatives Pamela Laflamme for their help in arranging for the Homeowner Assistance Fund workshop being held at City Hall tomorrow. Councilor Morency noted that this is a great opportunity for people to get assistance that need it.

Councilor Robert Theberge advised that HB142, concerning Burgess Biopower, will be heard late Thursday in Concord. Councilor Theberge advised that he plans to testify in the Senate, as he did in the House. Councilor Theberge stated that it looks like the bill will be moving on, which will avoid a catastrophe for the City.

## **14. Adjournment**

On a motion by Councilor Roland Theberge, seconded by Councilor Morgan, the Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 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.