

## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, May 15, 2023**

### **Public Hearing**

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 7:00 pm for Resolution 2023-17 Reallocation of Public Works CIP Funds.

City Manager Phillip Warren advised that the purpose of this Resolution is to reallocate funds for a tractor mounted sidewalk sweeper and to rent crack sealing equipment for Public Works, as the money was originally allocated for infrared paving equipment which is no longer needed.

There were no public comments. Mayor Grenier closed the Public Hearing at 7:01 pm.

### **Regular Meeting**

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:01 pm.

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

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

Present: Mayor Grenier, Councilors Robert Theberge, Higbee, Remillard, and Eastman

Absent: Councilor Berthiaume, Morency, Morgan, and Roland Theberge

Also present: City Manager Phillip Warren, Jr., City Clerk Shelli Fortin, Marion Moore, Ann Brungot, Lori Korzen, and Lisa Connell, Berlin Daily Sun.

**c.** Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to accept the minutes of the May 1, 2023 Regular Meeting and Work Session, and the Budget Meeting of May 8, 2023. So moved, the motion passed.

#### **Disbursements:**

Disbursement Summary Draft #1937 start date 05/02/2023 end date 05/15/2023 for a total cash disbursement of \$1,103,237.27. Councilor Remillard 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.

#### **2. Resolution 2023-17 Reallocation of Public Works CIP Funds (tabled 5/1/2023)**

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Three

**A RESOLUTION** authorizing the reallocation of capital improvement funds for the Public Works Department

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

WHEREAS, the Public Works Department has changed strategies as it relates to pavement management and it no longer needs to purchase infrared paving equipment; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Department requires a replacement tractor mounted sweeper for cleaning its sidewalks due to the failure of the current sweeper; and

WHEREAS, in addition it has been a goal of this administration to focus more efforts on efficient and economic pavement management; and

WHEREAS, there are Capital Funds available within the Public Works Capital Improvement budgets; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 21a. of Subpart A. of the City Charter, the Berlin City Council authorizes the re-appropriation of capital expenditures listed herein.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Berlin, NH that \$16,400 from account 01-495-495995-1206 Infrared Equipment be reallocated to the following accounts: \$9400 to account 01-430-430437-2000 (Mechanical Brooms) for the purpose of purchasing a tractor mounted sidewalk broom and \$7000 to account 01-430-430435-2000 (Hot Top / Cold Patch) to provide for rental of crack sealing equipment.

Be it further resolved that the City Manager is authorized to do all things necessary to execute the purchase and rental described above.

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

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

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to read Resolution 2023-17 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to read Resolution 2023-17 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, that Resolution 2023-17 be passed. So moved, the motion passed by roll call vote. Mayor Grenier noted that the 2/3 majority required was met.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Resolution 2023-18 CDBG Boys and Girls Clubs of NH (1<sup>st</sup> read)**

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to table the Resolution and schedule a public hearing for June 5, 2023. So moved, the motion carried.

### **2. Resolution 2023-19 BEA Demo May 2023 (1<sup>st</sup> read)**

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to table the Resolution and schedule a public hearing for June 5, 2023. So moved, the motion carried.

### **3. Resolution 2023-20 HOP Grant May 2023 (1<sup>st</sup> read)**

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to table the Resolution and schedule a public hearing for June 5, 2023. So moved, the motion carried.

### **4. Resolution 2023-21 CDFA Library ay 2023 (1<sup>st</sup> read)**

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to table the Resolution and schedule a public hearing for June 5, 2023. So moved, the motion carried.

### **5. Resolution 2023-22 NHDOT Mason Street Bridge (1<sup>st</sup> read)**

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to table the Resolution and schedule a public hearing for June 5, 2023. So moved, the motion carried.

### **6. Resolution 2023-23 SoleSource Preservation Company Mitigation (1<sup>st</sup> read)**

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to table the Resolution and schedule a public hearing for June 5, 2023. So moved, the motion carried.

**7. Resolution 2023-24 Reallocation of Funds for BMHS Bathrooms (1<sup>st</sup> read)**

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to table the Resolution and schedule a public hearing for June 5, 2023. So moved, the motion carried.

**8. City Manager's Report**

1. Attached is the April 2023 Property Transfer list.
2. Attached please find the BWW – Municipal Water Usage from January 3, 2023 to April 3, 2023 (May 2023 Billing Quarter).
3. As you are aware we had theft of the solar lights located at the Riverwalk. Total loss is in the vicinity of \$19,000. Primex is reviewing the claim, the police are investigating.
4. Sewer bills have gone out, the abatement form has been updated to include information on abatements that may be considered and when requests come in they will be investigated and placed on a future workshop agenda for council consideration.
5. At present the Public Works department is down 3 employees, 2 laborers and one heavy equipment mechanic. Future openings are anticipated as 3 employees will probably retire this year. It continues to be a struggle to hire staff for this department.

City Manager Warren added that they did receive three applications today for the Public Works positions, and will be interviewing shortly. Mr. Warren also stated that there are a lot of grant resolutions tonight, and reminded the public that these funds are for a specific purpose and cannot be used for a purpose they are not intended for.

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

Councilor Remillard asked when the Mason Street Bridge project would begin and City Manager Warren advised it will probably be next year, as the work can only be done during the drawdown in September, and he is not optimistic that they will be ready for that date this year.

So moved, the motion passed.

**9. Mayor's Report**

**a. Letter from Berlin Housing Authority**

Dear Mayor and Berlin City Councilors:

It is our pleasure to disclose to Mayor and Council that Berlin Housing Authority on the retirement of its current Executive Director, Mary Jo Landry has selected Christin Bernier as her successor.

We hope you join us in wishing Ms. Landry well and hope that she has many stories to tell in the future, while leaving the Authority in the capable hands of Ms. Bernier and the experienced staff of Berlin Housing.

Sincerely,

Paul Croteau  
Commissioner Chair

**b. Letter from Consolidated Communications**

Dear Berlin City Council:

Consolidated Communications is happy to share the exciting news that we will be building a fiber internet network in your city! This network will be funded through a combinations of a \$40M Broadband Expansion grant, awarded to

Consolidated on February 22<sup>nd</sup> by the State of New Hampshire Broadband office, and Consolidated's own funding. Because of this support, the construction and installation of fiber internet to your community will require no funds from the city. We plan to begin the project engineering by late summer and commence construction by the end of this year with a goal to complete most of the project within the 2024 calendar year.

In the coming months, we will organize meetings with your city to share information. These meetings will likely kick off in the late spring/early summer. In the meantime, if you have any questions about the project please don't hesitate to reach out. Residents are able to pre-order for service at [fidiumfiber.com](http://fidiumfiber.com).

We look forward to this future partnership and will be in touch soon with more details on the project.

Sincerely,

Sarah Davis  
Vice President Government Relations and Wholesale Strategies  
Consolidated Communications

c. Letter from Steven McCosh re: Crosswalks

To Whom It May Concern:

As the River Walk is becoming increasingly used, pedestrian safety at the crosswalks should be of increasing concern.

Eight crosswalks exist along the city's new River Walk all but one (Ninth St.) have a solar lamp post near them (on the east/river side of the street) and all but one have a utility pole on the west side of the street.

I am writing with the hope that the Berlin City Council/Public Works Dept. may consider the following for a future agenda:

- 1) The current crosswalks are fading, especially since paint has been worn off by traffic tire wear. These should be repainted as needed and the use of a photoluminescent (glow in the dark) paint might be considered – see enclosed example from Allureglow USA (other vendors exist).
- 2) The installation of crosswalk signage on both sides of the road – see enclosed ideas. In my opinion, the reboundable crosswalk signs might be the most effective but not necessarily the most practical. Solar LED lighted signs would be the next best and, finally, non-lit signage would be 3<sup>rd</sup> best. These should be installed at all crosswalks and on both sides of the street. In most instances, perhaps the utility poles and the street lamps could be used for this purpose. At the very least, the crosswalk at 11<sup>th</sup> St. should be marked and other high-traffic crosswalks should be studied and considered.

Like many others, I enjoy and use the River Walk very often.

Only very few vehicles are stopping at these crosswalks. The many that do not are violating State RSA 259:17 (Bicyclists and motorists must yield to pedestrians in a crosswalk, whether the crosswalk is marked or not).

Thank you for your consideration of this concern.

Steve McCosh

City Manager Warren advised that the staff will be repainting as soon as they finish sweeping. City Manager Warren also advised the Council that most signs do not work, and especially the ones placed in the roadway, which tend to end up in the travel lane or on the sidewalk.

d. Work Order from Elaine Gamache re: Stop/Yield Signs Request

Requesting a stop sign be put at the bottom of Jolbert Street. If you are driving up Second Avenue, I've seen many times where cars coming down Jolbert Street do not stop.

Also I believe a yield sign would be needed on top of Green Street. This is where you come to a y onto Second Avenue. I've seen near misses where the car is turning left onto Second Avenue without yielding to the traffic coming from the right of Second Avenue.

Elaine Gamache

e. Kids to Parks Day Proclamation

### ***PROCLAMATION***

#### **Proclaiming May 20, 2023, as Kids to Parks Day in the city of Berlin, NH**

**WHEREAS**, May 20, 2023, is the 13<sup>th</sup> Kids to Parks Day organized and launched by the National Park Trust held annually on the third Saturday of May; and

**WHEREAS**, Kids to Parks Day empowers kids and encourages families to get outdoors and visit America's parks, public lands and waters; and

**WHEREAS**, we should encourage children to lead a more active lifestyle to combat issues of childhood obesity, diabetes, hypertension and hypercholesterolemia; and

**WHEREAS**, Kids to Parks Day will broaden children's appreciation for nature and outdoors.

**WHEREAS**, Kids to Parks Day will recognize the importance of recreating responsibly while enjoying the benefits of the outdoors.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Mayor Paul Grenier, do hereby proclaim May 20, 2023, as **Kids to Parks Day**.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to forward the letters from Steven McCosh and Elaine Gamache to the Traffic Safety Committee for further review and recommendations. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to accept the communications from Berlin Housing Authority and Consolidated Communications, and the Kids to Parks Day Proclamation, and place them on file. So moved, the motion carried.

#### **10. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

#### **11. Council Comments**

There were no Council comments.

#### **12. Adjournment**

On a motion by Councilor Higbee, seconded by Councilor Remillard, 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.