

## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, February 5, 2024**

### **Public Hearing**

Mayor Cone opened the Public Hearing at 7:59 pm for Resolution 2024-01 Approval of Hazard Mitigation Plan. There were no public comments. Mayor Cone closed the Public Hearing at 8:00 pm.

Mayor Cone opened the Public Hearing at 8:00 pm for Resolution 2024-02 DES GSCF Fire Truck Replacement. There were no public comments. Mayor Cone closed the Public Hearing at 8:00 pm.

Mayor Cone opened the Public Hearing at 8:00 pm for Resolution 2024-03 DES GSCF Recycling Truck Replacement. There were no public comments. Mayor Cone closed the Public Hearing at 8:00 pm.

### **Regular Meeting**

Mayor Cone called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 8:00 pm.

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

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

Present: Mayor Cone, Councilors Mia Qualls, Higbee, Berthiaume, Morency, Valerino, Morgan, Korzen, and Theberge.

Absent: None

Also present: City Manager Phillip L. Warren Jr., City Clerk Shelli Fortin, Richard King, Paul Martineau, Sarah Mafera, Levi Riendeau, Jamie Welch, and Lisa Connell, Berlin Daily Sun.

c. Councilor Theberge moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to accept the minutes of the January 16, 2024 Regular Meeting and Work Session. So moved, the motion passed.

### **Disbursements:**

Disbursement Summary Draft #1954 with a start date of 01/17/2024 and an end date of 02/05/2024 for a total cash disbursement of \$1,149,493.02. Councilor Theberge moved, with a second by Councilor 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**

Paul Martineau of 211 Church Street shared concerns about illegal immigrants coming across the southern border into the country. Mr. Martineau noted the problems we already have with housing, and is concerned that the City might consider housing them and allowing them to work here.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **1. Council Committee Reports**

There were no Council Committee Reports.

#### **2. Resolution 2024-1 Approval of Hazard Mitigation Plan (tabled 1/16/2024)**

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Four

A RESOLUTION approving the Berlin Hazard Mitigation Plan

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

Whereas, the City of Berlin received funding from the NH Homeland Security Emergency Management Agency to assist in the preparation of the Berlin Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

Whereas, several public meetings and committee meetings were held between regarding the development and review of the Berlin Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

Whereas, the Berlin Hazard Mitigation Plan contains several potential future projects to mitigate hazard damage in the City of Berlin; and

Whereas, a public hearing was held by the City Council on February 5, 2024 to formally seek public input on the Berlin Hazard Mitigation Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Berlin City Council approves the Berlin Hazard Mitigation Plan. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after passage.

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

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to read Resolution 2024-01 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to read Resolution 2024-01 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, that Resolution 2024-01 be passed. So moved, the motion passed.

**3. Resolution 2024-2 DES GSCF Fire Truck Replacement (tabled 1/16/2024)**

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Four

A RESOLUTION authorizing the receipt of a DES Granite State Clean Fleets Grant for the replacement of Engine 4.

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

WHEREAS, the NH Department of Environmental Services, through the Granite State Clean Fleets Grant Program, has offered the City funds to replace Engine 4, a 1998 Freightliner, with a Model Year 2024 replacement, with a total cost of \$575,000

WHEREAS, the grant will fund \$460,000 of the replacement and the City will fund \$115,000 from the FY 2025 Capital Improvement Program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Berlin, NH, that the City Manager is authorized receive all grant funds from the NH Department of Environmental Services' Granite State Clean Fleets Grant Program in an amount not to exceed \$460,000. Be it Further Resolved that the City Manager 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, to remove this item from the table. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Higbee moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to read Resolution 2024-02 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Higbee moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to read Resolution 2024-02 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Higbee moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, that Resolution 2024-02 be passed. So moved, the motion passed.

**4. Resolution 2024-3 DES GSCF Recycling Truck Replacement (tabled 1/16/2024)**

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Four

A RESOLUTION authorizing the receipt of a DES Granite State Clean Fleets Grant for the replacement of a Recycling Truck.

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

WHEREAS, the NH Department of Environmental Services, through the Granite State Clean Fleets Grant Program has offered the City funds to replace a Recycling Truck, a 2001 International, with a Model Year 2024 replacement, with a total cost of \$212,890

WHEREAS, the grant will fund \$170,312 of the replacement and the City will fund \$42,578 from the FY 2025 Capital Improvement Program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Berlin, NH, that the City Manager is authorized receive all grant funds from the NH Department of Environmental Services' Granite State Clean Fleets Grant Program in an amount not to exceed \$170,312. Be it Further Resolved that the City Manager 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 Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to remove this item from the table. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to read Resolution 2024-03 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to read Resolution 2024-03 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, that Resolution 2024-03 be passed. So moved, the motion passed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Council Committee Assignments**

City Manager Warren read the Council Committee Assignments as discussed at the Work Session.

**BAA**

- Cone
- Morency
- Morgan
- Higbee
- Valerino

**Accounts & Claims**

- Cone
- Theberge
- Morency
- Qualls
- Korzen

**Traffic**

- Morency
- Valerino

- Berthiaume
- Qualls
- Korzen, alternate

#### **Elections**

- Berthiaume
- Theberge
- Morgan
- Higbee

#### **Emergency Action**

- Higbee

**Budget** – ALL

**Sewer** – ALL

**Planning Board** – Morgan

**BIDPA** – Berthiaume, ex-officio  
Higbee, appointed

Councilor Higbee moved, with a second by Councilor Berthiaume, to approve the Council Committees as presented.

Councilor Theberge stated there was not a need for the Election Committee.

Councilor Berthiaume moved to approve as read, which was seconded by Councilor Morgan. So moved, the motion carried. Theberge - opposed

## **2. City Manager's Report**

1. Attached please find the BWW – Municipal Water Usage from October 2, 2023 to January 2, 2024 (February 2024 Billing Quarter).
2. Attached is a copy of a petition in opposition to HB 110, which intends to prohibit spending of any form on passenger rail projects. The bill text is also included. A representative from the Lakes Region brought this to my attention as it could negatively affect plans for future passenger rail service in the region. I have additional copies of the petition.
3. The traffic lights at the Big Apple have been repaired, the times have been set to extend East side traffic.
4. Snow pickup is occurring city wide, the lull in storms has assisted in catching up.
5. Attached is a communication received from the Chief of Police in regards to operations.

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

## **3. Mayor's Report**

### **a. AVRRDD Appointments**

Honorable Mayor and City Council,

The term of office for your District Representative and Alternates expires on March 31, 2024. Article III, Section 3.3 of the District Agreement requires that the governing body of your municipality appoint or re-appoint a Primary Representative, a First Alternate, and a Second Alternate and that these appointments be certified in writing to the District by your City Clerk.

Your current District Representatives are:

Primary Representative: Michael Rozek  
First Alternate: Roland Theberge

Second Alternate: Thomas McCue

Please have your City Clerk confirm your appointments to the District on or before March 31, 2024.

Respectfully,

Lisa G. Riendeau

Councilor Korzen and Councilor Qualls expressed interest in serving on the AVRRDD Board.

Mayor Robert Cone moved, with a second by Councilor Valerino, to appoint Steven Korzen as the Primary Representative, and Mia Qualls as the First Alternate as the City's representatives on AVRRDD. So moved, the motion carried.

City Manager Warren advised that he will put out a request for a Second Alternate along with the notice looking for Energy Committee members.

**4. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**5. Council Comments**

Councilor Theberge recommended that the Primary Representative to AVRRDD attend the next two meetings of that Board before starting their appointed term. Meetings are scheduled for February 28, 2024 and March 29, 2024.

**6. Adjournment**

On a motion by Councilor Higbee, seconded by Councilor Morgan, the Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 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.