

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, April 20, 2020

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:45 p.m. via Zoom, pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, Section 8 and Emergency Order #12, Section 3.

Public Hearing

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 7:45 pm for Resolution 2020-10 Appropriating \$44,220.92 for Fire Department Apparatus Floor. There were no public comments. Mayor Grenier closed the Public Hearing at 7:45 pm.

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 7:46 pm for Resolution 2020-11 Authorizing Operation Stonegarden Grant for \$13,426. There were no public comments. Mayor Grenier closed the Public Hearing at 7:46 pm.

Regular Meeting

a. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Roll Call

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

Absent: Councilors Rozek, Otis, and Berthiaume

Also present: James Wheeler, Susan Tremblay, Fire Chief James Watkins, Pamela Laflamme, Shelli Fortin, Patricia Chase, Deputy Chief Dan Buteau, and Barbara Tetreault, Berlin Daily Sun.

c. Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Eastman, to accept the minutes of the April 6, 2020 Regular Meeting and Work Session, and the April 13, 2020 Work Session. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier - yes

Disbursements:

Disbursement Summary Draft #1861 start date 04/07/2020 end date 04/17/2020 for a total cash disbursement of \$747,083.82. 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.

Mayor Grenier asked if the Committee on Accounts and Claims was aware of the new process for reviewing the Disbursement Report. Councilor Remillard advised that she liked that the report was put out on Friday to have the weekend to review. Councilor Theberge noted that they need to correct the signing, as the last page was not included.

So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier - yes

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Council Committee Reports

There were no Council Committee Reports.

2. Resolution 2020-10 Appropriating \$44,220.92 for Fire Department Apparatus Floor (tabled 4/6/2020)

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty

A RESOLUTION re-appropriating Fund 51 surplus bond funds in the amount of Forty-Four Thousand, Two Hundred Twenty Dollars and Ninety-Two Cents (\$44,220.92) for the design and construction of the Fire Department's Apparatus Floor.

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

Whereas, the apparatus floor at the Berlin Fire Department has visible cracks and structural steel degradation from water infiltration and is in need of repair; and

Whereas, the structural load of the current fire-fighting apparatus exceeds the design load of the existing floor structure, and

Whereas, it is recommended by a structural engineer to repair or replace the concrete slabs, steel floor beams, and concrete foundation along the front of the existing firehouse and reinforce the entire floor; and

Whereas, this project is of high priority due to safety concerns.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Council hereby re-appropriate Fund 51 surplus bond funds in the amount of Forty-Four Thousand, Two Hundred Twenty Dollars and Ninety-Two Cents (\$44,220.92) for the design and construction of the Fire Department Apparatus Floor.

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 by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier - yes

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to read Resolution 2020-10 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier - yes

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to read Resolution 2020-10 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier - yes

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, that Resolution 2020-10 be passed. So moved, the motion passed by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

3. Resolution 2020-11 Authorizing Operation Stonegarden Grant for \$13,426 (tabled 4/6/2020)

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty

A RESOLUTION authorizing the Berlin Police Commission to apply for and accept Thirteen Thousand Four Hundred and Twenty-Six Dollars (\$13,426.00) in grant funds from the NH Department of Safety for the Homeland Security Operation Stonegarden Grant for Fiscal Year 2020.

WHEREAS border threat and vulnerability concerns are evaluated based on operational data from the Department of Homeland Security Customs and Border Protection (DOHS/CBP); and

WHEREAS DOHS created the Operation Stonegarden Program (OPSG) to support enhanced cooperation and coordination among CBP, United States Border Patrol (USBP), and local, Tribal, territorial, state, and Federal law enforcement agencies in a joint mission to secure the United States' borders along routes of ingress from international borders to include travel corridors in states bordering Canada; and

WHEREAS OPSG funding is distributed based on risk to the security of the border, in consideration of intelligence, situational awareness, criminal trends, and statistical data specific to each of the border sectors

and the potential impacts that these threats pose to the security of the border area; and

WHEREAS DOHS/CPB has determined that threat and vulnerability concerns for the US/Canada border persist for terrorism, criminal alien, drug trafficking, and alien smuggling organizations, and has allocated funds to promote a layered, coordinated approach to law enforcement within United States Border States and territories; and

WHEREAS said allocated funding supports Border States and territories in accomplishing objectives to include increasing capability to prevent, protect against, and respond to border security issues; encourage local operational objectives and capabilities to enhance National and State Homeland Security Strategies; increase coordination and collaboration among Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies; continue the distinct capability enhancements required for border security and border protection; and provide intelligence-based operations through CBP/BP Sector Level experts to ensure safety and operational oversight of Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies participating in OPSG operational activities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Berlin, NH, that the Berlin Police Commission is authorized to apply for and accept Thirteen Thousand Four Hundred and Twenty-Six Dollars (\$13,426.00) in grant funds from NH Department of Safety for the purpose of effectuating the OPSG Program for Fiscal Year 2020. Be it further resolved that the City Manager is authorized to sign the grant documents and execute all things necessary to effectuate the grant.

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 by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier - yes

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to read Resolution 2020-11 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier - yes

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to read Resolution 2020-11 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier - yes

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, that Resolution 2020-11 be passed. So moved, the motion passed by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

NEW BUSINESS

4. Resolution 2020-12 Accepting \$5,000 from Jericho Power and Appropriating to PD (1st read)

Councilor Theberge moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee to table the Resolution and schedule a public hearing for May 4, 2020. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

5. City Manager's Report

1. Executive Councilor Cryans sent a report from the Executive Council's meeting of April 8th. At that meeting the G&C authorized the Division of Parks and Recreation to enter into a license agreement with the Nansen Ski Club Inc., Berlin, NH, for the improvements to and operation of US Nordic sanctioned ski jump competitions at the Nansen Ski Jump. Effective through June 30, 2030, with the option to renew for a period of 10 years. The license enables the Nansen Ski Club, in partnership with DNCR, to restore the jump and re-engineer the landing slopes in preparation of

its operation as a functioning and US Nordic-sanctioned ski jump. Once the work is complete in December 2020, the Big Nansen is expected to be an important piece of the North Country's economic revival, with a typical ski jump event attracting thousands of spectators to the area. This License also enables the NSC to access \$250,000 in grant funding awarded to the NSC in July 2019, by the Northern Border Regional Commission.

2. They also authorized the Division of Fire Standards and Training and Emergency Medical Services to enter into a grant agreement with the City of Berlin for the distribution of naloxone kits to first responders and at-risk individuals along with their support networks as part of the NH Project FIRST. Effective upon G&C approval through September 29, 2020. 100% Federal Funds.
3. Executive Councilor Cryans also sent a letter to government officials offering himself as a resource in the fight against COVID-19. His letter is attached.
4. We have received two responses to our RFP for assessing services related to the 5 year update. The firms include KRT Appraisal from Haverhill, MA. and Corcoran Consulting Assoc., from Wolfeboro Falls, NH. The responses are currently being reviewed.
5. Ambulance Statistics, PD statistics, PWD statistics are attached.
6. COVID Updates will be reviewed during the Council Work Session.

Councilor Morgan moved, with a second from Councilor Higbee, to accept the City Manager's Report and place it on file. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

- a. City Manager Wheeler advised that he received a letter from Maurice Croteau dated April 17, 2020 with a bid of \$2,000 for the property at 532 Burgess Street. This offer came in after the bid process, in which there were no bids received. Croteau advised that he would improve the property and it would be back on the tax roll.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second from Councilor Higbee, to accept the offer of \$2,000 from Maurice Croteau for the property at 532 Burgess Street, subject to the bid conditions set forth in the bid process, as well as correcting the sump pump issue in the cellar. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

6. Mayor's Report

- a. Re-appointment to Water Commission

Dear Honorable Mayor:

My term of office for Water Board Commissioner expires as of May 1, 2020.

I am willing to continue to serve as a Board Member. Would you please consider reappointing me as a Water Board Commissioner, with a term of office expiring May 1, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul W. Poulin
258 High Street
Berlin, NH

Councilor Theberge moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to accept the Mayor's re-nomination of Paul Poulin as a member of the Berlin Water Commission with a term to expire May 1, 2024. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

8. Council Comments

There were no Council comments.

9. Adjournment

At approximately 8:10 p.m. Councilor Theberge moved with a second by Councilor Higbee to adjourn the regular meeting. So moved, the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

A True Record, Attest:

Shelli Fortin
City Clerk

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