

PUBLIC HEARING – MAY 2, 2016

Mayor Grenier opened the duly scheduled and advertised Public Hearing at approximately 7:26 p.m. to hear comments on the following subject matters:

- Resolution 2016-09 Accept \$239,267 Additional Grant Funds for the School Dept.- No comments
- Resolution 2016-10 Schools to Accept a \$100,000 Grant for Dropout Prevention – No comments

There being no one wishing to speak for or against the subject matters at this time, Mayor Grenier declared the Public Hearing portion of the meeting closed at approximately 7:27 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, May 2, 2016

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:27 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. The pledge of allegiance to the flag preceded roll call. Present: Councilors Remillard, Otis, Morgan Allain, Gentili, Rozek and Theberge. Councilors Nelson and Higbee were absent. Also present: City Manager Wheeler, Susan Tremblay, Corinne Cascadden, Elaine Riendeau and Barbara Tetreault.

Minutes, Previous Meeting

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Morgan Allain to accept the minutes of the April 18 Regular Meeting/Work Session; April 25 Work Session. So moved, the motion carried.

Disbursements: Disbursement Summary Draft #1764 start date 4/19/2016 end date 5/2/2016 for a total cash disbursement of \$877,681.29. Councilor Theberge moved with a second by Councilor Gentili to accept the disbursement summary and pay all bills as recommended by the Committee on Accounts/Claims. So moved, the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – No comments

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Council Committee Reports – No reports
2. Resolution 2016-09 amending the 2016 budget by revising Fund 10 School Department Federal Programs and appropriating \$239,267 of additional grant funds from Project AWARE to the School Department. (tabled 4/18/2016) Resolved by the City Council of the City of Berlin as follows:

| BERLIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS GRANT REVENUE INCREASES 2015-2016 | | | | |
|---|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Rev 4-12-16 | CITY ACCOUNT # | Current City Budget Book | Revised Budget | Increase |
| PROJECT NO: 62576 | | | | |
| REV - PROJECT AWARE | 10-384-301-0000 | \$ 439,023 | \$ 678,290 | \$ 239,267 |
| TOTAL | | \$ 439,023 | \$ 678,290 | \$ 239,267 |

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

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to remove the resolution from the table at this time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to have the resolution read a second time by title only. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to have the resolution read a third time by title only. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to pass the resolution. So moved, the motion carried and Mayor Grenier declared the resolution now passed.

3. Resolution 2016-10 authorizing the Berlin School Department to apply for and accept One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) of Dropout Prevention funds and appropriating said funds to the School Department for the purpose of the grant. (tabled 4/18/2016)

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

Whereas, funding is available from the Department of Education to decrease dropout rates in New Hampshire schools. Now therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Berlin, NH, that the Berlin School Department is authorized to apply for and accept One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) of funding over two years for Dropout Prevention. Be it further resolved that said funding is appropriated to the School Department for the purpose of effectuating said grant. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after passage.

Councilor Theberge moved with a second by Councilor Rozek to remove the resolution from the table at this time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Theberge moved with a second by Councilor Rozek to have the resolution read a second time by title only. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Theberge moved with a second by Councilor Rozek to have the resolution read a third time by title only. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Theberge moved with a second by Councilor Rozek to pass the resolution. So moved, the motion carried and Mayor Grenier declared the resolution now passed.

NEW BUSINESS

4. City Manager's Report

1. Route 110 resumed work on April 18.
2. A meeting of the Androscoggin River Committee was held on Thursday April 14th at the Mahoosoc Inn in Milan. The group plans to nominate the Androscoggin River to the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program. There were comments both for and against the proposal. If the nomination is submitted, there is a two year process that will need to get through the Legislature. Barbara Tetreault wrote a very comprehensive article about the meeting. A copy is attached in case you missed it.
3. Congresswoman Annie Custer sent us a letter offering assistance for her constituents. Included is a contact list for her offices. The information is attached and it has been posted to the City web site.
4. Warner Cable is negotiating agreements with programmers and broadcasters whose services are set to expire. A list is provided in the attached letter from Warner Cable. This is a routine process and in most circumstances agreements are reached before programming is affected.
5. After 10 years with the same website, we are in the planning stages of updating and refreshing the City's website. We are staying with our current company, Virtual Town and Schools and will be upgrading to their newest and most secure website platform. The change will allow departments to be in charge of their own pages. Currently, only three people manage the entire site. We may not be able to include all suggestions but we'd like to continue to make the site the best it can be so if Council has any suggestions, we would love to hear them. We hope these changes make the website more user friendly for citizens and staff. If anyone has any comments or suggestions, please let Sue and Pam know.
6. The Berlin Main Street Program is asking for volunteers on Friday, May 27th for the Berlin Downtown Day of Caring. They are looking for volunteers to help rake, prune, sweep, mulch, weed, and plant their way through multiple sites in the downtown area. In appreciation for your dedication to the community, a barbecue is planned for lunchtime at Bickford Place for all volunteers. Groups or organizations wishing to volunteer can sign up by e-mailing berlinmainstreetprogram@gmail.com or calling 603-752-6246 or 603-381-1520. We have a commitment from Eversource for participation.
7. The Public Works Department monthly report is attached.

8. The Notice to Proceed for Hutchins Street was sent to AB Excavating on April 27, 2016. The project was given the approval to proceed by NHDOT. The expected Substantial Completion date of the project is July 8, 2016. In addition, Sargent Construction has notified the City that they do not wish to begin the Rte. 16 reconstruction project until mid-July. They feel they will be able to complete the project within the construction time allocated. This will further alleviate any concerns of congestion caused by both projects being underway at the same time.
9. On Wednesday May 18th, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Berlin High School Cafeteria, the recently formed Stand Up Androscoggin Valley Coalition, working with Sergeant Rick Frost of the NH National Guard Counterdrug Task Force Civil Operations, will host a free event inviting residents of the Androscoggin Valley to help identify all the activities and assets that already exist in our region. The event *Embrace our Region* is a next step in strengthening our community against substance misuse. Whether you and your family and friends like to hike Mt. Jasper or Mascot Mine, fish along the Androscoggin, spend an evening at the Medallion Opera House or St. Kieran Community Center for the Arts, we want to know what makes the area special to you.

An activity expo will follow in the Berlin High School gymnasium to conclude the event. The expo will showcase all the activities and great things that our area has to offer. **We invite clubs, organizations, businesses – both formal and informal – to come and set up a table to share what they offer to the community so people can get more information and ideas.** Whether you're a fitness center, youth group, arts and culture, outdoor club, historical organization, aimed at youth, families, adults and seniors and everyone in between can come and help us pack the gym with things to do. **To register for the activity expo – please send an email to plaflamme@berlinnh.gov or call 752-8587.**

10. Eversource has informed that they will make a \$1,000 donation to Service Credit Union Heritage Park.
11. The tree clearing project on the BIDPA land on East Milan Road was completed last week. It will take a couple of weeks before final invoicing and payments are made.
12. House Bill 1198, the bill created to establish a method of valuing communication poles passed the Senate last week by a vote of 20-3. If the House agrees with the Senate amendment the bill will be sent to the governor.

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

Council discussed that while staff was working to revise the city website, they would like them to consider having tax cards made available for viewing. That feature would not only help realtors and businesses but would also be convenient for people wanting to relocate to the area.

According to the City Manager because of the added fee with Vision software, they opted not to use Vision for tax cards but are currently working with People GIS to provide the same service. It is a matter of better educating people how to use People GIS and current information would be available on a daily basis.

The City Manager will work on getting a full presentation to Council on what Vision software vs People GIS has to give and at what cost.

Mayor Grenier also wants pictures of city officials posted on the website so people can match the name with a face they can recognize out on the street.

5. Mayor's Report

Proclamation: Water Works Week May 1 – May 7, 2016

Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Morgan Allain to accept the proclamation for Berlin Water Works Week. So moved, the motion carried.

Appointments - Mayor Grenier presented the following nominations:

- Planning Board: Theresa Saucier as an Alternate member for a three year term set to expire April 2019.

Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Theberge to accept Theresa Saucier as the Mayor's nomination to the Planning Board as stated. So moved, the motion carried.

- Zoning Board of Adjustment: Gregg Estrella three year term set to expire April 2019; Nathan Morin for a three year term set to expire April 2019.

Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Theberge to accept Gregg Estrella and Nathan Morin as Mayor Grenier's nominations to the ZBA as stated. So moved, the motion carried.

6. Public Comments – No comments

7. Council Comments - No comments

8. Adjournment:

There being no further business before the Mayor and Council, Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Theberge to adjourn the regular meeting. So moved, the motion carried and Mayor Grenier declared the regular meeting adjourned at approximately 7:53 P.M.

A True Record, Attest:
Debra A. Patrick, CMC
City Clerk