

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Tuesday, January 2, 2024

Public Hearing

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 7:23 pm for Resolution 2024-42 Unanticipated Bridge Aid. There were no public comments. Mayor Grenier closed the Public Hearing at 7:24 pm.

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 7:24 pm for Resolution 2024-43 NHCF Library Technology Grant. There were no public comments. Mayor Grenier closed the Public Hearing at 7:24 pm.

Regular Meeting

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:25 pm.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Grenier, Councilors Robert Theberge, Higbee, Morency, Morgan, Eastman, and Roland Theberge.

Absent: Councilors Berthiaume and Valerino

Also present: City Manager Phillip Warren, Jr, Library Director Ann Brungot, City Clerk Shelli Fortin, Mayor-Elect Robert Cone, Councilor-Elect Steven Korzen, Councilor-Elect Mia Qualls, Jamie Welch, Sarah Mafera, and Lisa Connell, Berlin Daily Sun.

c. Councilor Roland Theberge moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to accept the minutes of the December 18, 2023 Regular Meeting and Work Session. So moved, the motion passed.

Disbursements:

Disbursement Summary Draft #1952 with a start date of 12/19/2023 and an end date of 01/02/2024 for a total cash disbursement of \$1,816,864.56. Councilor Roland 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

There were no public comments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Council Committee Reports

There were no Council Committee reports.

2. Resolution 2023-42 Unanticipated Bridge Aid (tabled 12/18/2023)

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Three

A RESOLUTION accepting unanticipated bridge aid funds from the State of New Hampshire

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

WHEREAS, HB2 has provided additional unanticipated bridge aid funds for the City, which shall be accepted pursuant to RSA 31:95-b, shall be treated as non-lapsing funds and shall be appropriated consistent with guidance offered by the state; and

WHEREAS, the city has been allocated \$141,118.07 in additional highway block grant aid.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Berlin, NH accepts the unanticipated amount of \$141,118.07 in additional bridge aid to be expended consistent with state guidance offered and shall be considered non-lapsing funds.

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

Councilor Roland Theberge moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to remove this item from the table. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Roland Theberge moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to read Resolution 2023-42 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Roland Theberge moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to read Resolution 2023-42 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Roland Theberge moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, that Resolution 2023-42 be passed. So moved, the motion passed.

3. Resolution 2023-43 NHCF Library Technology Grant (tabled 12/18/2023)

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Three

A **RESOLUTION** authorizing an application to New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, New Hampshire Library Technology Grant Program, in the amount of \$7,800, for the purpose of replacing outdated technology and increasing the number of computers available for public use at Berlin Public Library.

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

WHEREAS, during the COVID19 era the number of public use computers within the library was reduced to ensure social distancing was maintained and that these protocols are no longer needed; and

WHEREAS, there is a noticeable increase in public use of library services, including computers; and

WHEREAS, providing free access to modern technology can empower marginalized groups, including women, minorities, and people with disabilities, by providing them with tools to overcome barriers and participate more fully in society.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Berlin as Follows:

That the City Manager is authorized to receive a grant funds in the amount of \$7,800 from New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, New Hampshire Library Technology Grant Program, and the grant proceeds are hereby appropriated for the purpose of the grant, and all grant proceeds shall be deposited with the City Treasurer, and the City Manager is authorized to do all things necessary to effectuate this 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 2023-43 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Higbee moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to read Resolution 2023-43 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Higbee moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, that Resolution 2023-43 be passed. So moved, the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. City Manager's Report

1. A majority of the storm damage that was recently sustained has been cleaned up and or repaired. There are instances where we will need to return and set a finish grade or pave the area.
2. Repairs at the Watson Street pump station are ongoing. Untreated sewage continues to leak to the river. the contractor is working quickly to complete repairs to prevent this. The cause of this damage is likely due to the storm -- the combination of extremely high groundwater and introduction of large quantities of rain water into the collection system overwhelmed the pump station. DES and EPA have been notified and are receiving periodic updates. This is one phase of the repair – the outfall pipe will need repair and plans need to be considered that will provide either permanent or temporary redundancy of the pipe that moves effluent from Watson Street to the treatment plant – there is only one pipe performing this function, making maintenance and repairs difficult and sometimes impossible.
3. As of this report no update has been received on the status of replacement equipment for the Hutchins Street traffic light. Temporary stop signs have been installed at the intersection to assist drivers who are confused about the need to stop at a flashing red light.

City Manager Warren advised that he did receive an update today on the Hutchins Street traffic light. The contractor has found the equipment needed, is in the process of programming it, and is hoping to install it next week. The cost will be between \$12,000-\$15,000, and Mr. Warren advised that the City does have money in the budget to cover the expense. Councilor Roland Theberge asked if the timing could be changed on the delayed green and Mr. Warren will look into that.

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

5. Mayor's Report

Mayor Grenier reminded Council that the next meeting will be the Inauguration for the new Mayor and Council members.

6. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

7. Council Comments

There were no Council comments.

8. Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Higbee, seconded by Councilor Morgan, the Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 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.