

## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, November 19, 2018**

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:34 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

### **Regular Meeting**

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

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

Present: Mayor Grenier, Councilors Remillard, Otis, Morgan Allain, Berthiaume, Gentili, Higbee, Rozek, and Theberge.

Also present: Jim Wheeler, Shelli Fortin, Claire Stiles, and Barbara Tetreault, Berlin Daily Sun

**c.** Councilor Remillard moved with a second by Councilor Otis to accept the minutes of the November 5<sup>th</sup> Work Session and Regular Meeting. So moved, the motion carried.

### **Disbursements:**

Disbursement Summary Draft #1827 start date 11/06/2018 end date 11/19/2018 for a total cash disbursement of \$1,851,626.48. Councilor Theberge moved with a second by Councilor Berthiaume to accept the disbursement summary and pay all bills as recommended by the Committee on Accounts/Claims. So moved, the motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – There were none.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Council Committee Reports – There were none.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

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

1. The NH Division of Historical Resources has informed us that the St. Anne Historic District was entered in the National Register of Historic Places on September 8, 2018. A letter explaining the designation is attached.
2. The Fire Chief, who is the City's Emergency Management Director, will be advertising for proposals from consultants to provide an update to our Emergency Operations Plan. The plan is supposed to undergo a complete update every five years. Final award of the project to a consultant will be contingent on the receipt of an Emergency Management Performance Grant, EMPG, from the State of NH.
3. There will be no garbage or recycling collected on Thanksgiving Day; those collections will take place on Friday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>.
4. On Wednesday, November 14, 2018, I attended the New Hampshire Municipal Association's Annual Conference in Manchester. I attended three education sessions including:
  1. Effective Negotiation Strategies for Health Benefits, Atty. Mark Broth, Drummon, Woodsum & MacMahon
  2. Demographics is the New Economic Development, Brian Gottlob, Polecon Research
  3. Sustainable Pavement Maintenance and Rehabilitation, Panel of Presenters including Dr. Eshan Dave, UNH. City Manager Wheeler advised that Dr. Dave has a strong interest in the snow melt project.
5. City Management staff are currently working on the FY20 to FY25 Capital Improvement Plan. It is expected to go before the Planning Board on December 4<sup>th</sup> and City Council on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

6. On November 26, 2018, Wayne Saunders, Coos County Sheriff's Department ATV Liaison, will attend the City Council Work Session to discuss ATV use in the North Country.
7. The Board of Tax and Land Appeals has ordered the City and Eversource to mediate their current tax dispute and provide a report to the BTLA by March 15, 2018, reporting the outcome of mediation.
8. The Fire Department Statistics Report for October is attached.

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

Councilor Higbee asked what the boundaries are for the St. Anne's Historic District and was advised it includes the church, the hall, and St. Regis, but not the old hospital.

Councilor Rozek asked about the results of the analysis for ambulance service and was advised the draft report was submitted, but sent back with a list of comments and questions.

Mayor Grenier asked about the request by BTLA to mediate the tax dispute with Eversource and if the mediation was individually or as a group with other communities involved. City Manager Wheeler advised that he has contacted Chris Boldt to find out.

So moved, the motion carried.

#### **7. Mayor's Report**

- a. Mayor Grenier read a letter from Berlin Housing Authority that was sent with a payment in lieu of taxes in the amount of \$11,652.77.
- b. Mayor Grenier read a letter received from Richard Chabot of the Great North Woods Chapter of the National Federation for the Blind reference adding reflective tape or paint to the edges of the City Hall Steps to assist the visually impaired.

Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Councilor Morgan Allain to accept the Mayor's report.

There was discussion about the paint or reflective tape for the steps and City Manager Wheeler advised that there is an ADA compliant entrance to the left of the City Hall steps. The letter will be given to Public Works Director Eric Grenier to look into.

So moved, the motion carried.

#### **8. PUBLIC COMMENTS – There were none.**

**9. Council Comments –** Councilor Berthiaume asked if it should be noted that she was not in attendance at the non-meeting on November 5, and was advised it was not required for a non-meeting.

Councilor Rozek suggested that if the outside steps are done with reflective tape, the inside steps should be considered as well.

Councilor Gentili advised that he has been asked to serve on the Citizen's Advisory Board at the state prison at the request of the new warden, Corey Riendeau. A letter will be sent to Warden Riendeau acknowledging Councilor Gentili as the representative on the Citizen's Advisory Board from City Council.

#### **10. Adjournment**

At approximately 7:52 p.m. Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Berthiaume to adjourn the regular meeting. 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.