

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, March 18, 2019

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

Public Hearing

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 7:34 pm for Resolution 2019-06 Accepting Donation of Snowmobile for Fire Department. There were no public comments. Mayor Grenier closed the public hearing at 7:35 pm.

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 7:35 pm for Ordinance 2019-01 Rescinding No Parking on Western Avenue. There were no public comments. Mayor Grenier closed the Public Hearing at 7:36 pm.

Regular Meeting

a. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Roll Call

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

Absent: Councilor Rozek

Also present: Jim Wheeler, Shelli Fortin, Claire Stiles, Will O'Brien, Ben Gagnon, Lee Page, Sue Labonville, Elizabeth Holland, Christina Lefebvre, Kelly Croteau, Sarah Hoffman, Cindy Lapointe, David Parent, Tiffany Thorgersen, Justin Lessard, Barbara Tetreault, Berlin Daily Sun, and Steve Bissonnette, Berlin Reporter

c. Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to accept the minutes of the March 4, 2019 Regular Meeting and Work Session, March 6, 2019 Budget Work Session, and March 11, 2019 Work Session. So moved, the motion carried.

Disbursements:

Disbursement Summary Draft #1834 start date 03/05/2019 end date 03/18/2019 for a total cash disbursement of \$1,348,552.91. 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 no public comments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Resolution 2019-06 Accepting Donation of Snowmobile for Fire Department (tabled 03/04/2019)

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Nineteen

A RESOLUTION accepting the donation of a 2001 Panther 550 snowmobile worth approximately \$1,550.00 for the Fire Department.

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

Whereas, the Berlin Fire Department prepares for, and responds to a wide variety of emergencies and calls for service; and

Whereas, the Berlin Fire Department provides rescue for injured snowmobilers on the trails surrounding Berlin; and

Whereas, Cheryl Kenney and Mary Louise Brozena want to donate a 2001 Panther 550 Snowmobile to the Fire Department for use in its rescue services for residents and visitors to the beautiful North Country trails.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Berlin, NH that the donation of 2001 Panther 550 snowmobile worth approximately \$1,550.00 is gratefully accepted for use by the Fire Department.

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 2019-06 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to read Resolution 2019-06 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, that Resolution 2019-06 be passed. So moved, the motion passed.

2. Ordinance 2019-01 Rescinding No Parking on Western Avenue (tabled 03/04/2019)

In the year of our Lord Two Thousand Nineteen

AN ORDINANCE rescinding Ordinance 2013-10 that amended the CODE OF ORDINANCES, Chapter 15 , TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES, ARTICLE III. STOPPING, STANDING AND PARKING, Sec. 15-69. Prohibited at all times in designated places, that added "No Parking, Vehicles Will be Towed" signs on either side of the driveway at 709 Western Avenue.

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Berlin, as follows:

That the reference in Sec. 15-69 to

~~Western Avenue, west side, "No Parking Vehicles Will be Towed" on either side of the driveway at 709 Western Avenue~~ is hereby rescinded.

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

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

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to read Ordinance 2019-01 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to read Ordinance 2019-01 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, that Ordinance 2019-01 be passed. So moved. The motion passed.

3. Council Committee Reports – There were no council committee reports.

NEW BUSINESS

4. City Manager's Report

1. Bids were opened on Thursday, March 7th for the provision of the Summer Food Program held at City playgrounds during the summer. Tri County CAP was the low bidder and we are pleased that they will continue to provide the service.
2. The annual Rabies Clinic will be held at the Recreation Center on Saturday, April 6th. The clinic is sponsored by the White Mountain Beagle Club in conjunction with the Lancaster Veterinary Hospital. Cats will be vaccinated from 10:00 to Noon and dogs will be vaccinated from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. There is a fee of \$15.00 for rabies vaccinations and other vaccines will be available for an additional fee.

3. NH DOT does a yearly inspection of all bridges in the State, including those owned by municipalities. Berlin currently has one red-listed bridge: Mason Street over the canal built in 1967 and modified in 1977. The substructure is noted as being in poor condition. A letter from Victoria Sheehan, DOT Commissioner, to Governor Sununu is attached. This is the same issue discussed with Council last fall. We want to continue to monitor the substructure at least once annually and put the bridge in the State Aid Bridge Program for ultimate repair.

4. A selection committee met on Tuesday, March 12th to review the proposals and interview firms for the Library Building Assessment. The following firms submitted and interviewed for the project:

AECm Engineering
Alba Architects IIb
Tennant Goucher Architects

The firm selected for the project is Alba Architects.

5. Join your fellow community members, friends, and neighbors at the kickoff event for the Berlin Industrial Development & Park Authority Board's economic development strategy work. Hear about the project, have an opportunity to share your vision for the future, and stay informed about upcoming events. The evening will include a short presentation by the City's consultant, Camoin Associates, followed by a facilitated discussion around what residents and businesses love about Berlin, opportunities for improvement, and what a vibrant and healthy city looks like. The event will take place on Thursday, April 4, 2019, at the White Mountains Community College in the Bistro at 6:00 pm. The event will end at 7:30 pm. Refreshments will be provided. Any questions, please contact Pam Laflamme at 752-8587 or plaflamme@berlinnh.gov.

7. The Police Department statistics are attached.

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

Councilor Theberge asked if the state had also inspected the second bridge on Mason Street, as it appears to be deteriorating as well. City Manager Wheeler advised that both were inspected, but the second bridge was not red-listed. City Manager Wheeler advised the City does have a copy of the full report.

So moved, the motion carried.

7. Mayor's Report
a. Proclamation – Coos County Botanical Garden Club Day

Mayor Grenier read and signed the Proclamation for the Coos County Botanical Garden Club Day. Mayor Grenier thanked the club for their work.

Whereas, the Coos County Botanical Garden Club was established by Will O'Brien in 2006 through the Community Services Center in Berlin.

Whereas, the club developed and maintains the Laura Lee Viger Botanical Gardens on Hutchins Street in Berlin, along with many gardens throughout the City and others located in the Towns of Gorham and Randolph.

Whereas, the Coos County Botanical Garden Club's motto is "Growing relationships and knowledge between people and plants while supporting wildlife."

Whereas, the Club provides programs such as the "Grows Wild Program" established in 2018. The garden club will certify wildlife habitat gardens for people in our community along with pollination gardens of different types to support bees, butterflies, and birds by teaching people how to plant flowers to support wildlife on their own property.

Whereas, the Coos County Botanical Garden Club works with Community Services Center Supportive Employment Program by having people who have a disability work in the gardens with people in the community as an integration process that supports community inclusion and the beautification of our community.

Whereas, the Garden Club hosts the “Appalachian Meditation Program” where people are introduced to the plants and natural gifts in the Forest as a forest bathing experience by the Club’s Forest Guide, Will O’Brien.

On behalf of the Citizens of Berlin, I thank the Coos County Botanical Garden Club for providing such a valuable and appreciated asset in Berlin and beyond.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Mayor of the City of Berlin do hereby proclaim May 1, 2019 Coos County Botanical Garden Club Day and I urge each individual in the community to take time on this day and throughout the growing season to visit the gardens, photograph the flowers, and participate in the programs of the Coos County Botanical Garden Club.

b. Planning Board Appointment

Mayor Grenier read the letter received from Suzanne Wasileski:

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am interested in serving on the Berlin Planning Board. The board has asked that I consider joining them and as there is a vacant position, I would like to fill that vacancy. I have been attending Planning Board meetings and observing their work for the past several months. I live and work here in Berlin and I am employed at White Mountains Community College.

I am very interested in community planning and development and would like the opportunity to work and become better acquainted with the community. I am told the vacancy is for an alternate member and the term available is a two year term that will run until April 30, 2021. I appreciate the chance to serve the City of Berlin in this capacity.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Wasileski
220 Cates Hill Road
Berlin, NH 03570

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Theberge, to appoint Suzanne Wasileski as an Alternate Planning Board member with a term to expire April 30, 2021. So moved, the motion carried.

c. Board of Assessors Appointment

Mayor Grenier read the letter received from Mark Eastman.

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

I would like to be considered for reappointment to the Board of Assessors for another three-year term set to expire March 31, 2021. My present term will expire March 31, 2019.

I have been a member of the Board of Assessors since December 2015, having filled Pierre Morin’s vacant position. Since that time I have become familiar with the duties and responsibilities of the Board and hope to continue to serve the City of Berlin to the best of my ability.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Eastman
213 School Street
Berlin, NH 03570

Councilor Higbee moved, with a second by Councilor Theberge, to reappoint Mark Eastman as a member of the Board of Assessors with a term to expire March 31, 2022. So moved, the motion carried.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS – There were no public comments.

9. Council Comments – There were no Council comments.

10. Adjournment

At approximately 8:05 p.m. Councilor Theberge moved with a second by Councilor Morgan Allain 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.