

PUBLIC HEARING – FEBRUARY 1, 2016

Mayor Grenier opened the duly scheduled and advertised Public Hearing at approximately 7:35 p.m. to hear comments on the following subject matters:

- Resolution 2016-02 accepting donation for UTV Equipment for the Fire Department
- Resolution 2016-03 Sale of 121 Main Street

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 7:36 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, February 1, 2016

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:36 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, Nelson and Theberge. Councilor Higbee was absent. Also present: City Manager Wheeler, Susan Tremblay and Barbara Tetreault.

Minutes, Previous Meeting

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

Disbursements: Disbursement Summary Draft #1758 start date 1/16/2016 end date 2/1/2016 for a total cash disbursement of \$1,277,345.08. Councilor Theberge moved with a second by Councilor Nelson 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 2016-02 accepting a donation of \$6,578.00 from LS Power Development, LLC to provide equipment for the Rescue UTV at the Fire Department. (tabled 1/18/16)

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

Whereas, The Fire Department has a 2015 Polaris Ranger 900cc for the use in rescue and wildfire suppression operations; and

Whereas, LS Power Development, LLC recognizes that the vehicle would be more effective with additional equipment; and

Whereas, LS Power Development, LLC is donating \$6,578.00 for a skid mounted Fire/Rescue unit on the UTV so that the public will be better served.

Whereas, the total projected cost of installing the skid mounted Fire/Rescue unit is \$6,578.00.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, by the Mayor and City Council that the City accepts a donation of \$6,578.00 for a skid mounted fire rescue unit for the rescue UTV at the Fire Department. Be it further resolved that the City Manager is authorized to do all things necessary to effectuate the donation. 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 Morgan Allain 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 2016-03 authorizing the sale of 121 Main Street, Map 119 Lot 51 along with three adjacent parcels fronting along Pleasant Street identified as Tax Map 119, Lots 33, 34 and 35 to Affordable Housing, Education And Development (AHEAD), Inc. for the sum of Forty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$45,000.00) (tabled 1/18/16) Resolved by the City Council of the City of Berlin as Follows:

Whereas, the City of Berlin currently owns the property at 121 Main Street, Map 119; Lot 51, along with the three vacant adjacent parcels fronting along Pleasant Street known as Tax Map 119, Lots 33, 34, and 35; and

Whereas, there is currently no tax base derived from any of the parcels at this time; and

Whereas, the properties are located in the middle of downtown and have been vacant for many years and AHEAD has been a responsible partner and developer in the community; and

Whereas, AHEAD has effectively maintained their present properties to meet all City Codes and ordinances; and

Whereas, AHEAD has agreed to substantially improve the property at 121 Main Street and the adjacent three vacant parcels by renovating the building and adjacent properties to meet all City Codes and ordinances; and

Whereas, the Mayor and Council have determined that the City of Berlin has no need for the properties; and

Whereas, the proposal tendered by AHEAD was found to meet the City's goals to improve the downtown and put properties back on the tax rolls. Now therefore be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Berlin as Follows: That the City Manager is authorized to do all things necessary to effectuate a contract to sell the property at 121 Main Street Tax Map 119, Lot 51 along with three adjacent parcels along Pleasant Street, Tax Map 119, Lots 33, 34, and 35, for Forty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$45,000.00) to Affordable Housing, Education And Development (AHEAD), Inc. Further, that the proceeds of the sale will be deposited with the City Treasurer for the benefit of the Berlin Industrial Development & Park Authority. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after passage.

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

Councilor Nelson moved with a second by Councilor Morgan Allain to have the resolution read a second time by title only. So moved, the motion carried.

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

4. Ordinance 2016-02 amending 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. (1st read)

Councilor Nelson moved with a second by Councilor Theberge to table the ordinance and schedule a public hearing on February 15. So moved, the motion carried.

5. City Manager's Report

1. Offers of employment have gone out for two additional firefighters; two had accepted an offer of employment. One has since withdrawn. Gary Auger from Whitefield will begin work January 11. The second hire is therefore still in process.

2. In mid-January Senator Shaheen held a round table discussion at BHS to discuss the heroin problem. One of the things I was proud to note at the meeting was the recognition by several participants about how this was the first time they have seen such a broad group of stakeholders come together to seek a multifaceted solution to a problem. This came about, at least in part, by the City's organization of the community heroin forum last fall. Also, attached is a letter from Senator Shaheen to President Obama requesting additional resources to fight substance abuse. <http://nhpr.org/post/shaheen-says-feds-must-take-opioid-problem-far-more-seriously>
<http://nhpr.org/post/citing-heroin-concerns-berlin-allows-anti-overdose-drug-schools>
3. An Email was sent to the Berlin delegation supporting HB 1428 which provides funding for several project in the NHDES State Aid Grant Program. A copy is attached.
4. Mike Connelly of LS Power Development, LLC introduced himself as the new contact for the wind towers located on Jericho Mountain. He reported that the wind project was commissioned in the October – December 2015 period. The Commercial Operations Date (COD) with ISO NE was January 23, 2016. That is the day that all of the testing and records review was deemed complete by NE-ISO. They have been selling power to the grid through the testing period but as of last the 23rd they are producing power IAW our PPAs with the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative and the Reading Municipal Lighting Department.
5. Sharon Gauthier sent the annual report of the AVRRDD's activities for 2015; a copy is attached.
6. The Police Departments 2015 Year End Activity Report is attached. On the negative side, Burglaries are up from 47 in 2014 to 74 in 2015. On the positive side, Restraining Orders/Stalking Orders are down from 125 in 2014 to 80 in 2015.

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

6. Mayor's Report – No report
7. Public Comments – No comments
8. Council Comments - No comments
9. 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 closed at approximately 7:52 p.m.

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