

## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, October 21, 2019**

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:44 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

### **Public Hearing**

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 7:45 pm for Resolution 2019-28 Master Planning Grant. There were no public comments. Mayor Grenier closed the public hearing at 7:45 pm.

### **Regular Meeting**

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

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

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

Absent: None

Also present: Pamela Laflamme, Susan Tremblay, Julie King, Shelli Fortin, Jamie Welch, Gina Welch, Richard Laflamme, Henry Fortin, Louise Valliere, Scott Losier, Lynn Moore, Nicole Plourde, Steve Paquette, Holly Paquette, Robbie Munce, William Welch, Carla Welch, other members of the public, and Barbara Tetreault, Berlin Daily Sun.

**c.** Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to accept the minutes of the October 7, 2019 Regular Meeting and Work Session, and the October 14, 2019 Work Session. So moved, the motion carried.

### **Disbursements:**

Disbursement Summary Draft #1849 start date 10/08/2019 end date 10/21/2019 for a total cash disbursement of \$912,395.91. 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 –**

Richard Laflamme of 128 Jasper Street in Berlin questioned whether the Mayor and City Manager have asked the State legislature to upgrade curriculum at BHS. Laflamme stated that we need tradespeople in this country. Laflamme stated that the City is not giving students the opportunity to learn a trade. Mayor Grenier advised that the school currently works with WMCC to offer welding, for which the students also earn college credit.

Jamie Welch of 102 Church Street stated that he understands the City is going through some challenges, but that we have a certain level of quality we need to maintain. The school has done remarkable things to cut costs, but may have cut too deep. Needs are not being met and he is concerned about the future. They will have a difficult time trying to staff the school, especially with a national teacher shortage. Welch stated that taxes and costs are going up, but the teacher's paychecks are not going up. Welch asked what the school will do when nobody applies for positions.

Gina Welch of 102 Church Street stated that she believes the public's comments are falling on deaf ears. Welch stated that the school is not adequately funded, they need a working fire alarm system, and are not asking for frivolous things. Welch stated that they all fought for money for the school and she is not happy to see it spent on a new salt truck. Welch stated she is tired of living in a City that doesn't ever have enough.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **1. Resolution 2019-28 Master Planning Grant (tabled 10/7/2019)**

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Nineteen

**A RESOLUTION** appropriating Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) from the Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund of the NH Charitable Foundation to revise the City's Master Plan which will be ten years old in 2020.

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

Whereas, pursuant to RSA 674:1 it is the duty of the Planning Board to prepare and amend the City's Master Plan; and

Whereas, in Berlin, the Master Plan should be reviewed and amended approximately every ten years; and

Whereas, an application was submitted and funds were granted from the Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund of the NH Charitable Foundation for funding the 2020 revision of the City's Master Plan.

Now Therefore, Be it Resolved by the City Council of the City of Berlin that Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) is hereby accepted from the Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund of the NH Charitable Foundation to update the City of Berlin's Master Plan and the funds are appropriated to the Planning Department for the purpose of the grant.

Be it further resolved that, the City Manager is authorized to accept the grant and to sign and do all things necessary to effectuate and carry out the 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 2019-28 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Higbee moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to read Resolution 2019-28 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Higbee moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, that Resolution 2019-28 be passed. So moved, the motion passed.

2. Council Committee Reports – There were no Council Committee Reports.

**NEW BUSINESS**

3. Consideration of School Department Labor Contracts

**a. BEA**

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to accept the cost items of the BEA 1-year contract, with a 0.5% salary increase, for a total cost of \$39,560. So moved, the motion carried.

**b. BESS**

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to accept the cost items of the BESS 1-year contract, with a 0.5% salary increase retroactive to July 1, 2019, for a total cost of \$14,975. So moved, the motion carried.

**c. AFSCME 1444**

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to accept the cost items of the AFSCME 1444 1-year contract, with a 0% salary increase retroactive to July 1, 2019, and changes to the cost structure for a total cost of \$5,850. So moved, the motion carried.

4. City Manager's Report - There was no City Manager's Report.
5. Mayor's Report
  - a. Extra Mile Day Proclamation

## **Proclamation**

**WHEREAS**, Berlin is a community which acknowledges that a special vibrancy exists with the entire community when its individual citizens collectively “go the extra mile” in personal effort, volunteerism, and service; and

**WHEREAS**, Berlin is a community which encourages its citizens to maximize their personal contribution to the community by giving of themselves wholeheartedly and with total effort, commitment, and conviction to their individual ambitions, family, friends and community; and

**WHEREAS**, Berlin is a community which chooses to shine a light on and celebrate individuals and organizations within its community who “go the extra mile” in order to make a difference and lift up fellow members of their community; and

**WHEREAS**, Berlin acknowledges the mission of the Extra Mile America Foundation to create 300 Extra Mile cities in America and is proud to support “Extra Mile Day” on November 1, 2019.

**NOW THEREFORE** I, Mayor of Berlin, New Hampshire do hereby proclaim November 1, 2019 to be Extra Mile Day. I urge each individual in the community to take time on this day to not only “go the extra mile” in his or her own life, but to also acknowledge all those around who are inspirational in their efforts and commitment to make their organizations, families, community, country or world a better place.

**b.** Letter from Robert Gehring

07 October 2019

Dear Traffic & Safety Committee,

I am requesting a parking restriction for an area on Woodrow St. This city maintained dead end street is used by myself and 1 neighbor and guests to access garages and/or driveways as shown in accompanying diagrams. There is a small paved area opposite my garage which allows me to back into in order to turn and exit the street. There has been and still is a problem with cars parking on this paved area creating the inability to fully backup without the potential to collide with a vehicle in this area. I need all of this area especially in the winter due to the amount of snow. I have tried to explain to people parking in this area, the need and concern which I mention to no avail and parking in this area still continues. I have notified police and home owner in the past that I was blocked in. To avoid further conflicts and police assistance, I feel that a no parking area should be established.

Respectfully,  
Robert Gehring

Councilor Rozek moved, with a second by Councilor Remillard, to refer this letter to the City Planner and Police Department, and to send a letter to Robert Gehring acknowledging receipt of his correspondence. So moved, the motion carried.

Mayor Grenier thanked the Superintendent and the School Board Chair for their work. Mayor Grenier advised their request does not fall on deaf ears. Mayor Grenier advised he would like to see a balance struck between what the schools need and the cost to taxpayers, and sometimes that balance is tough.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENTS –**

Community Development Director Pamela Laflamme reminded those present of the Candidate's Night being held at City Hall next Tuesday from 6:00-8:00 pm. North Country Listens will be there to facilitate.

**7. Council Comments –**

Councilor Remillard stated that she realizes a fire alarm is a priority and hopes they can figure out how to work it into the budget.

Councilor Morgan stated that there needs to be a balance which is fair to both the school and taxpayers.

Councilor Rozek advised that he has three grandchildren in the school system and sees the needs, but also sees the financial plight of the City.

**8. Adjournment**

At approximately 8:16 p.m. Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Higbee 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.