

PUBLIC HEARING – FEBRUARY 15, 2016

Mayor Grenier opened the duly scheduled and advertised Public Hearing at approximately 7:29 p.m. to hear comments on the following subject matters:

- Ordinance 2016-02 Removal of “No Parking” in Route 110 Corridor.

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 7:30 p.m.

Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Otis to add Local 1088 Contract Cost Items as item 5a to tonight’s agenda. So moved, the motion carried.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, February 15, 2016

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7: p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. The pledge of allegiance to the flag preceded roll call. Present: Councilors Otis, Morgan Allain, Gentili, Higbee, Rozek and Theberge. Councilors Remillard and Nelson were absent. Also present: City Manager Wheeler, Susan Tremblay and Barbara Tetreault.

Minutes, Previous Meeting

Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Higbee to accept the minutes of the February 1 Regular Meeting/Work Session; February 8 Work Session. So moved, the motion carried.

Disbursements: Disbursement Summary Draft #1759 start date 2/2/2016 end date 2/12/2016 for a total cash disbursement of \$860,182.87. Councilor Theberge moved with a second by Councilor Higbee 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 – Mayor Grenier asked the City Clerk to provide Council with a report of the recent Presidential Primary Election.

City Clerk Debra Patrick reported that the city had a total 61% voter participation at the February 9, 2016 Presidential Primary Election. Precinct 2 which was the combination of Precincts 2 and 3 at the St Anne Hall was well received by both the election officials and the voters. One complaint was received from a voter who would have preferred that the voting take place on the lower level of St Anne Hall. The St Anne Hall Custodial Staff was great to work with and they were very accommodating and attentive with regard to any possible snow related problems. Parking was not an issue and the set up allowed a good voter flow of traffic without long waiting lines to vote.

Councilor Gentili heard a complaint about handicap access at the entrance. The City Clerk said there was a ramp available if anyone needed to use it, they could ask any of the election workers and they would be happy to set it up for use as needed.

Councilor Rozek mentioned that an individual contacted him saying that the history of the voting location was compromised by moving it. Councilor Rozek for the record stated that he voted against changing voting locations from the beginning.

2. 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. (tabled 2/1/16)

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Berlin as follows: That Sec. 15-69 is hereby amended as depicted below.

Sec. 15-69. Prohibited at all times in designated places.

- (a) When signs are erected, or other markings made, giving notice thereof, no person shall park a vehicle at any time upon any of the following streets or parts of streets longer than necessary to load or unload passengers or commodities:

The following reflects amendments to accommodate changes to the Route 110 corridor:

~~**Madigan Street**, both sides, from the intersection of Second Avenue approximately fifty (50) feet westerly leaving one (1) parking space to the east of a driveway on the south westerly corner property of Second Avenue and Madigan Street.~~

~~**Mannerling Street**, both sides, from the intersection of Second Avenue and Madigan Street for approximately fifty (50) feet west.~~

~~**Second Avenue**, east side, from the railroad tracks to the corner of Second Avenue and Green Street.~~

~~**Second Avenue**, west side, from the intersection of Madigan Street to the north side of the intersection of Sessions Street.~~

~~**Second Avenue**, west side, from 767 Second Avenue to the corner of Second Avenue and Madigan Street.~~

The following reflects street name changes:

~~**Coos Street**, from its intersection on Unity Street to the point where it turns into Hutchins Street and continues to the entrance of Napert Village, on the northwesterly side of the streets.~~

~~**Fifth Street, Iceland Street**, north side, within forty (40) feet westerly from Main Street.~~

~~**Fifth Street, Iceland Street**, south side, from Main Street to Norway Street. First Avenue, west side, from Shepard Street to Mt. Forist Street. (1-5-15)~~

~~**Main Street**, east side, from Second Birch Street to Third Street Peavey Lane~~

~~**Main Street**, west side, two spaces in front of 255 Main Street. Main Street, west side, from the telephone pole at the entrance of the VFW building parking lot, southerly to the intersection of Fifth Iceland and Main Streets.~~

~~**Third Street, Peavey Lane** south side, from the intersection of School Street to Main Street.~~

~~**Third Street, Peavey Lane** north side, from utility pole at 378 to the center of the house at 533, Third Street. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after passage.~~

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

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

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

3. Ordinance 2016-03 OHRV (1st read)

Councilor Theberge moved with a second by Councilor Higbee to table the resolution and schedule a public hearing on March 7. So moved, the motion carried.

4. Resolution 2016-04 Authorizing the transfer of 175 Washington Street, Map 119; Lot 208 to B. Edward Bryant and Laurie A. Bryant of 180 Hillside Avenue for \$7,600.00. (1st read)

Councilor Theberge moved with a second by Councilor Otis to table the resolution and schedule a public hearing on March 7. So moved, the motion carried.

5. Resolution 2016-05 authorizing the Berlin Police Commission to apply for and receive funds for any and all purposes from the New Hampshire Highway Safety Agency for Highway Safety Project Grants for Fiscal Year 2017. (1st read)

Councilor Theberge moved with a second by Councilor Higbee to table the resolution and schedule a public hearing on March 7. So moved, the motion carried.

5a Local 1088 Contract Cost Items.

Presented as follows:

1% - On signing

2% - 7/1/2016

2% - 7/1/2017

With change to NHIT High Ded. HMO Plan, wages will be offset by premium savings.

Mayor Grenier explained that this will not cost the taxpayers a dime. The premium savings will fund the small increase.

Councilor Higbee moved with a second by Councilor Gentili to approve the cost items as presented. Roll call resulted in unanimous affirmative votes including Mayor Grenier who declared the cost items accepted.

6. City Manager's Report

1. After a thorough and competitive interview process I am pleased to announce that Elaine Riendeau will fill the position of City Clerk when it is vacated later this year. Elaine brings some very relevant experience as the Town of Gorham's Deputy Town Clerk, where she has gained a lot of experience working for the Town. In addition, she has some significant private sector experience as the past Owner and Operator of the Casablanca Cinema in Bethel, ME. She also worked on associated development work with the Town of Bethel. During the interview process it was obvious that she is committed to the area and enthusiastic about its continued growth and redefinition. We are currently working out the details of her start date to provide an overlap with Debbie Patrick before her retirement at the end of June.

Zachary Kenney has accepted an offer of employment as a Firefighter. He comes to us from Pittsburg, NH and is expected to begin work on February 22nd. The processes for a building inspector and housing coordinator are ongoing.

2. The Berlin Police Department was named the NH Retail Owners' Association 2016 Law Enforcement Partner of the Year. NH's Attorney General Joe Foster presented the award to the Berlin PD. The award recognizes outstanding members of the law enforcement community who have gone out of their way to help retailers and open the lines of communication between retailers and law enforcement.

The PD provides training for retailers on how to deal with aggressive and violent behavior from employees and consumers. They are available to do business walkthroughs and security talks. They share info with retailers on bad checks, fraud, robbery, counterfeits and thefts. In particular, they have advocated for ordinances designating the roads in the City as open to ATV's, giving ATV users access to businesses, thereby increasing sales.

3. There was an excellent voter turnout with an average of 61% city-wide for the February 9th Primary Election; a tally is attached. New Precinct 2 was extremely busy all day. People were very pleased with the new location and said it was well set up for the amount of foot traffic they had. Attendants only heard of one complaint the entire day. Attorneys representing the Bernie Sanders campaign as poll watchers engaged the City Clerk at the end of the day to let her know that they had sat in at each voting precinct and they were amazed at how well all precincts functioned. They said the voting process in Berlin was organized and that all election officials were great to work with. I would like to offer a big thank you to the City Clerk and all of the dedicated volunteers who work a very long day for the success of Berlin's elections.
4. Attached is a list of Public Works activities that we will report monthly. Service requests for 2015 totaled 762.
5. The FY18 Municipal budgeting process is well underway. Proposed department budgets have been submitted and compiled.
6. On the legislative front, the House Ways and Means Committee will conduct a hearing on HB 1198 regarding telecom pole valuations. The ASB is making recommendation relative to the valuing calculation. The City Attorney will be attending this hearing. The reauthorization of NH's Medicaid Expansion bill HB 1696 was passed by the full house. It will be heard by the House Finance Committee on Wednesday February 17th. The program saves local welfare dollars. The Governor's proposed 10 Year Transportation Plan (HB 2016) includes one project for Berlin: the Replacement of the Hillside Avenue Bridge over the Dead River at an estimated cost of \$659,451.

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

7. Mayor's Report – No report
8. Public Comments – No comments
9. Council Comments - No comments
10. Adjournment: There being no further business before the Mayor and Council, Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Hijgbee to adjourn the regular meeting. So moved, the motion carried and Mayor Grenier declared the regular meeting closed at approximately 8:00 p.m.

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