

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, February 17, 2020

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:31 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Public Hearing

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 7:31 pm for Resolution 2020-04 Authorizing an FR-CARA Application for \$4,544 of Naloxone Kits.

Richard Laflamme of 128 Jasper Street, Berlin, advised that he was strongly in favor of this Resolution.

Mayor Grenier closed the Public Hearing at 7:32 pm.

Regular Meeting

a. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Roll Call

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

Absent: Morgan

Also present: James Wheeler, Shelli Fortin, Richard Laflamme, Gina Welch, Jamie Welch, and Barbara Tetreault, Berlin Daily Sun.

c. Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to accept the minutes of the February 3, 2020 Regular Meeting and Work Session, and the February 10, 2020 Work Session. So moved, the motion carried.

Disbursements:

Disbursement Summary Draft #1857 start date 02/04/2020 end date 02/14/2020 for a total cash disbursement of \$479,511.81. 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 stated that he knew the contractor had been awarded the bid for the teardown of the Princess Theater and Woolworth's building and wanted to know how much he is bonded for and the insurance cost. City Manager Wheeler advised that this has not gone out to bid yet. Laflamme also asked about the proposed tramway to Jericho and what the reason for the delay was. Mayor Grenier advised the delay is due to financing. Laflamme stated he was going to run again for Mayor. Laflamme asked City Manager Wheeler what he does for the city.

Mayor Grenier provided a report on the tax rate in Berlin and noted that in 2000, the tax rate was \$41.57, adjusting for inflation in today's dollars that would be \$61.69. The City has kept the tax rate stable, or reduced it, even with accounting for inflation.

Richard Laflamme also stated he wanted to put his hat in the ring for the assessing board.

Jamie Welch from 102 Church Street stated that the challenging season of budgeting is coming and spoke on behalf of the Berlin Education Association. Welch stated that he is hoping for a solution for education funding, but pointed out that schools in the area have become aware of a teacher shortage. They currently have unfilled positions at the school, and as they move forward, this is not going to get better. Surrounding communities have rallied to retain teaching staff and attract new teachers with wage increases and better contracts. Berlin used to have good salaries, but with the cost of health insurance, they are now going backwards. The school needs staff or they will lose their accreditation. Welch noted it is not anything we have done, it is due to demographics and school funding in Concord, but it will need to be dealt with. Welch stated that although the current enrollment is down at BMHS, the enrollment in the younger grades is not and they will be coming up.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Resolution 2020-04 Authorizing an FR-CARA Application for \$4,544 of Naloxone Kits (tabled 2/3/2020)

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty

A RESOLUTION authorizing an application to the First Responder, Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (FR-CARA) for the NH Project FIRST Program that will provide \$4,544 of naloxone kits to the Berlin 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 NH Project FIRST program supports first responders in their efforts to reduce fatalities through outreach and distribution of naloxone; and

Whereas, the naloxone kits are provided at no cost to the City, however the Berlin Fire Department shall be trained in their use thereby providing in-kind services in the amount of \$4,544.00; and

Whereas, the City of Berlin accepts the terms of the grant and grant agreement as presented.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Berlin, NH that an application to FR-CARA for the NH Project FIRST Program is hereby authorized. The grant will provide naloxone kits to the Berlin Fire Department and upon receipt of the kits, the Berlin Fire Department shall perform \$4,544.00 of in-kind service.

Be it further resolved that the City of Berlin accepts the terms of the grant and grant agreement as presented and that the City Manager is authorized to do all things necessary to effectuate the grant.

This resolution 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 Resolution 2020-04 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to read Resolution 2020-04 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, that Resolution 2020-04 be passed. So moved, the motion passed.

City Council, in a majority vote, accepted the terms of the First Responder Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (FR-CARA) Cooperative Agreement, as presented in the amount of \$4,544.00 to implement a Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) program pending both NH Fire Standards and Training & EMS approval and Governor and Council approval. City Manager James Wheeler is authorized to sign all documents related to the grant.

2. Council Committee Reports

Councilor Rozek advised that the Traffic Safety Committee met on February 10, 2020. They discussed a request for a streetlight on Pinecrest Avenue. It was decided there was not enough information, and the Public Works Director will review the location. They received a request for a No Parking sign on Woodrow Street, which was denied. They received a request for a Speed Limit sign on First Avenue, which was denied. The school traffic lights that were at Brown School will be repositioned elsewhere, possibly on Hillside Avenue or by the new playground area at the elementary school.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to accept the report of the Traffic and Safety Committee and place it on file.

Councilor Remillard noted that if there is no traffic light in the middle of Pinecrest Avenue, the committee did authorize one to be installed.

So moved, the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Ordinance 2020-02 Amending Fire Inspection Fees (first read)

Councilor Theberge moved, with a second by Councilor Berthiaume to table the Ordinance and schedule a public hearing for March 2, 2020.

Councilor Berthiaume questioned the fees listed, stating that they had discussed a fee of \$30.00. City Manager Wheeler will confirm the amounts before the meeting on March 2.

So moved, the motion carried.

4. Fire Chief Salary

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second from Councilor Otis, to adjust the annual salary of the Fire Chief by an increase of \$5,000. So moved, the motion carried.

5. City Manager's Report

There was no City Manager's Report.

6. Mayor's Report

Mayor Grenier advised that the Sno-Go is back in use after being down most of the winter. Mayor Grenier asked that if people see rocks or other items in the snowbanks, that they be removed, so as to not get stuck in the equipment to remove the snow. Councilor Eastman mentioned that chunks of asphalt also sometimes end up in the snowbank from plowing. Councilor Remillard noted that some communities are using sand to pack potholes in winter, since the cold patch does not stay.

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

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Richard Laflamme of 128 Jasper Street stated that there was a stipulation that the Council voted on to allow the public to speak for five minutes which did not happen tonight.

Gina Welch of 102 Church Street noted that the time limit was five minutes, but that could be extended by the Council if agreed upon.

8. Council Comments

There were no council comments.

9. Adjournment

At approximately 8:01 p.m. Councilor Theberge moved with a second by Councilor Rozek 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.