

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, August 3, 2020

Regular Meeting

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:39 p.m. via Zoom, pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, Section 8 and Emergency Order #12, Section 3.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Roll Call

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

Absent: Councilor Remillard and Councilor Otis

Also present: James Wheeler, Pamela Laflamme, Shelli Fortin, and Barbara Tetreault, Berlin Daily Sun.

c. Councilor Theberge moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to accept the minutes of the July 20, 2020 Regular Meeting and Work Session. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Theberge – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier - yes

Disbursements:

Disbursement Summary Draft #1868 start date 07/17/2020 end date 08/03/2020 for a total cash disbursement of \$933,282.01. 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 by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Theberge – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier - yes

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Council Committee Reports

There were no Council Committee Reports.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Resolution 2020-17 Authorizing the Purchase of 8 Main Street for \$40,000 (1st read)

Councilor Rozek noted that the work to demolish the theater while saving the building next door would cost more than purchasing the building and demolishing both. It will be a savings to the City to take down the entire structure.

Councilor Theberge moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee to table the Resolution and schedule a public hearing for August 17, 2020. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Theberge – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

3. Teamsters Collective Bargaining Agreement

Mayor Grenier presented the cost items to the Council for the tentative agreement between the City of Berlin and the Teamsters, which represents the department heads. In 2021, there would be a 1% increase in salaries, with a cost of \$6,023, and the change in health care premiums would save the City \$14,896, for a net savings of \$8,873. FY2022 would have a 1% increase in salaries, with a cost of \$12,106, and insurance savings of \$19,861, for a net savings of \$7,755. FY2023 would again have a 1% increase in salaries, for a cost of \$18,189, and insurance savings of \$19,861, for a net savings of \$1,672. Total costs would be \$36,318, with premium savings of \$54,617, for a total net savings of \$18,299. Pay would be retroactive to July 1, 2020.

Councilor Higbee moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to accept the contract between the City of Berlin and Teamsters for FY2021, FY 2022, and FY2023, with the cost items as presented. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Theberge – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

4. City Manager's Report

1. We opened bids on a packer body on July 27th and on a snow blower July 31st. Bid summaries are attached. The bids are being vetted to determine the lowest responsible bidder(s).
2. We received notice from Eversource that they will be performing cultural resource assessments within the power line corridor in Berlin, Milan and Dummer to meet state and federal requirements. Field work is expected to be completed by September 2020. If artifacts are found, the landowner would be notified and informed of their option to retain or donate the artifacts. Their letter dated July 31, 2020 is attached.
3. There will be initial interviews for the Finance Director position on Thursday via Zoom with facilitation from Primex.
4. Corcoran has completed the preliminary values and they are prepared to present them to the BOA for approval per the project timeline. Letters to citizens informing them of the values will go out next week. Taxpayers will have the opportunity to schedule a hearing with Corcoran.
5. Bids for tax deeded properties are tentatively scheduled to be advertised in the local paper on Thursday, August 6th. The bids will be available on the City web site at www.berlinnh.gov/bids.
6. Letters went out last Thursday to taxpayers who are in arrears on their taxes and sewer bills, giving them the opportunity to pay the principal while having the interest on their accounts waived.

Councilor Rozek moved, with a second from Councilor Berthiaume, to accept the City Manager's Report and place it on file. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Theberge – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

5. Mayor's Report

a. Planning Board Appointment

Mayor Grenier and City Council,

With the resignation of Helene Rayborn last month from the Planning Board, the Board would like to recommend the nomination of Suzanne Wasileski, who is currently an alternate member, to fill Ms. Rayborn's unexpired term.

- Suzanne Wasileski – A term to run from now until April 2022 as a regular board member to fill the unexpired term of Helene Rayborn.

Sincerely,

Pamela E. Laflamme
Community Development Director

Councilor Rozek moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to accept the Mayor's nomination of Suzanne Wasileski as regular member of the Planning Board with a term to expire April 30, 2022. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Theberge – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no Public Comments.

7. Council Comments

Councilor Eastman advised that he has been contacted by a couple of citizens who are very happy with the signs that were put up at Mt. Jasper.

8. Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Rozek, seconded by Councilor Higbee, the Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 pm. So moved, the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Theberge – yes, Morgan - yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

A True Record, Attest:

Shelli Fortin
City Clerk

Note: Minutes are unofficial until they have been accepted by the Council by motion.