

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, August 17, 2020

Public Hearing

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 8:28 pm for Resolution 2020-17 Authorizing the Purchase of 8 Main Street for \$40,000.

Richard Laflamme of 128 Jasper Street spoke in opposition, stating that the City could just tear that building down as well when they tear down the Princess Theater. Mayor Grenier advised that the City does not currently own this building, and it would cost almost an additional \$70,000 to work around it when taking down the theater. Mayor Grenier stated it is in the taxpayer's best interest to purchase it and take both down at the same time.

Mayor Grenier closed the Public Hearing at 8:30 pm.

Regular Meeting

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 8:30 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 Remillard, Otis, Eastman, Higbee, Rozek, and Theberge

Absent: Councilors Berthiaume and Morgan

Also present: James Wheeler, Pamela Laflamme, Susan Tremblay, Shelli Fortin, Peter Morency, Richard Laflamme, and Barbara Tetreault, Berlin Daily Sun.

c. Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to accept the minutes of the August 3, 2020 Regular Meeting and Work Session. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier - yes

Disbursements:

Disbursement Summary Draft #1869 start date 08/04/2020 end date 08/13/2020 for a total cash disbursement of \$847,790.32. 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 by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier - yes

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Council Committee Reports

There were no Council Committee Reports.

2. Resolution 2020-17 Authorizing the Purchase of 8 Main Street for \$40,000 (tabled 8/3/2020)

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty

A RESOLUTION authorizing the City Attorney and City Manager to enter into a purchase and sale agreement with Kateryna Demers for 8 Main Street (Tax Map 118 Lot 117) on behalf of the City of Berlin for Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00)

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

Whereas, through a tax deed, the City of Berlin owns 4 Main Street (Tax Map 118 Lot 116), the former Princess Theater; and

Whereas, the Princess Theater property sustained irreparable damage in a fire and has been deemed unsafe; and

Whereas, the building at 8 Main Street is at such close proximity, it would be unsafe to demolish the Princess Theater building without causing damage to the adjacent building at 8 Main Street; and

Whereas, the City Attorney and City Manager are authorized to enter into a purchase and sale agreement on behalf of the City of Berlin for 8 Main Street as well as to do all things necessary to execute the purchase and obtain the deed to 8 Main Street.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Berlin, NH authorizes the City Attorney and City Manager to enter into a purchase and sale agreement with Kateryna Demers for the purchase of 8 Main Street for Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00)

Be it further resolved that the City Attorney and City Manager are authorized to do all things necessary to execute the purchase and sale agreement and subsequent deed for 8 Main Street (Tax Map 118 Lot 117).

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 by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to read Resolution 2020-17 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier - yes

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to read Resolution 2020-17 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier - yes

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis that Resolution 2020-17 be passed. So moved, the motion passed by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

NEW BUSINESS

3. City Manager's Report

1. We received a letter from the NHDOT informing us of Berlin's Highway Block Grant Aid. The aid is consistent with what we have in the FY21 budget for revenue. The letter is attached.
2. Some of you may have noticed traffic counters placed in several locations throughout the City. These are placed by North Country Council on behalf of NHDOT. Streets where a counter is in place are listed in the attached e-mail. The information gathered will be made available upon completion of the count.
3. Since we made it available, we have had two additional tax payers who have paid the principal of overdue taxes and sewer in order to have their interest waived. Taxes paid by these individuals total approximately \$11,000.
4. Berlin Emergency Medical Services, reports that transports to and from the nursing home are down this year due to COVID mitigation measures. Berlin EMS has acquired three UV lamps that can be used to decontaminate rooms and the back of ambulances. Their statistics at attached.

5. Appraisal staff members are available to discuss property owner's new valuations by appointment from Monday August 17th through Friday August 21th between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Meetings are being held in the City Hall Auditorium.
6. The City has received its first Disbursement Request from the State Revolving Loan Fund for the I&I pipeline project in the approximate amount of \$128,000.
7. We have received the construction loan documents from Northway Bank for the Fire Station and Hutchins Street project. I expect to execute these documents this week. As a reminder, the loan is in the amount of \$1,100,000.
8. The Police Department statistics are attached and a summary of Public Works work orders is attached.

Councilor Rozek moved, with a second from Councilor Higbee, 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, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis- yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

4. Mayor's Report

a. Police Commission Appointment

Honorable Mayor and Council,

I write to you today to request reappointment to the Berlin Police Commission, as my current term will expire on September 1, 2020.

I have served on the Commission since November 2015, at which time I was appointed to complete Tony Urban's unexpired term. It has been a privilege to serve the City in this capacity, and I would be honored to continue to do so.

As former Coos County Attorney, I believe I bring knowledge, skills, and expertise to the position. During my tenure as Police Commissioner, Commissioners Nault, Tremblay, and I have worked very well together, and we will continue to do so to ensure our community's Police Department is accountable, proficient in its duties, and fiscally responsible.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions or concerns, or if you would like to meet with me, please do not hesitate to contact me at 752-1416.

Sincerely,

Pierre Morin

Councilor Theberge moved, with a second by Councilor Rozek, to accept the Mayor's re-nomination of Pierre Morin to the Police Commission with a term to expire August 31, 2023. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

b. Cemetery Trustees Appointment

Ladies and/or Gentlemen:

I'm requesting to be a Cemetery Trustee for a one time, three year appointment.

Since I'm being paid to perform accounting services, I will forfeit the Trustee pay.

As a citizen it will be an honor to serve.

Respectfully submitted,

Albert R. Morrisette

Councilor Higbee moved, with a second by Councilor Theberge, to accept the Mayor's nomination of Albert Morrisette as a Cemetery Trustee with a term to expire August 31, 2023. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

Mayor Grenier thanked the Superintendent of Schools and the Berlin Board of Education for their diligent work to re-open Berlin schools with a well thought out plan. Mayor Grenier stated that we are lucky to have them and they have done a great job.

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 by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis-yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no Public Comments.

6. Council Comments

There were no Council Comments.

7. Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Rozek, seconded by Councilor Remillard, the Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 pm. So moved, the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

Mayor Grenier noted that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 8, 2020. Since this is a quite a stretch between meetings, a work session will be held on August 31 if needed.

A True Record, Attest:

Shelli Fortin
City Clerk

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