

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, November 2, 2020

Public Hearing

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 8:16 pm for Resolution 2020-22 FD \$9,999.75 Hazard Mitigation Grant. There were no public comments. Mayor Grenier closed the Public Hearing at 8:17 pm.

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 8:17 pm for Resolution 2020-23 PD \$2,000 Scholarship. There were no public comments. Mayor Grenier closed the Public Hearing at 8:17 pm.

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 8:17 pm for Resolution 2020-24 Election Expenses Grant. There were no public comments. Mayor Grenier closed the Public Hearing at 8:18 pm.

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 8:18 pm for Resolution 2020-25 NH Clean Diesel Grant Program. There were no public comments. Mayor Grenier closed the Public Hearing at 8:18 pm.

Regular Meeting

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 8:19 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, Morgan, Eastman, Higbee, Rozek, and Berthiaume

Absent: Councilor Theberge

Also present: James Wheeler, Pamela Laflamme, Susan Tremblay, Chief James Watkins, Deputy Chief Dan Buteau, Shelli Fortin, Bruce Luksza, and Barbara Tetreault, Berlin Daily Sun.

c. Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to accept the minutes of the October 19, 2020 Regular Meeting and Work Session and October 26, 2020 Work Session. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier - yes

Disbursements:

Disbursement Summary Draft #1874 start date 10/17/2020 end date 11/01/2020 for a total cash disbursement of \$1,317,927.46. Councilor Berthiaume moved with a second by Councilor Remillard 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, Remillard – yes, Otis – 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.

2. Resolution 2020-22 FD \$9,999.75 Hazard Mitigation Grant (tabled 10/19/2020)

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty

A RESOLUTION accepting a grant from the NH Department of Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in the amount of Nine Thousand, Nine Hundred Ninety-Nine Dollars and Seventy-Five Cents (\$9,999.75) to update the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan.

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

Whereas, the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan has not been updated since July of 2016; and

Whereas, the NH Department of Safety has funding available to assist with the update of the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

Whereas, it is estimated that the total cost of the update will be \$12,499.69 of which the City will pay \$2,499.94 of in kind services and the grant will pay \$9,999.75.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, by the Mayor and City Council that a grant in the amount of \$9,999.75 is accepted from the NH Department of Safety, and appropriated to the Berlin Fire Department to update the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Be it further resolved that the terms of the grant agreement are accepted as presented and 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 Higbee moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to remove this item from the table. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

Councilor Higbee moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to read Resolution 2020-22 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier - yes

Councilor Higbee moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to read Resolution 2020-22 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier - yes

Councilor Higbee moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan that Resolution 2020-22 be passed. So moved, the motion passed by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

3. Resolution 2020-23 PD \$2,000.00 Scholarship (tabled 10/19/2020)

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty

A RESOLUTION authorizing the Berlin Police Commission to apply for and accept Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) in scholarship funds from the North Country Health Consortium, Inc. for training purposes.

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

WHEREAS illness-related disorders, such as mental and/or substance abuse, remain an ongoing concern and prove difficult to immediately recognize; and

WHEREAS the North Country Health Consortium offers mental health awareness and de-escalation training through a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training module designed to assist first responders in recognizing persons experiencing a crisis due to mental or substance use disorders; and

WHEREAS CIT training will improve first responders' ability to identify then direct those in crisis to appropriate treatment for their condition, thus enhancing first responders' effectiveness while also resulting in improved outcomes for those in crisis; and

WHEREAS the North County Health Consortium provides CIT education support through scholarship funds, making participation more feasible,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Berlin, NH, that the Berlin Police Commission is hereby authorized to apply for and accept Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) in scholarship funds from the North Country Health Consortium, Inc. Said funds will be used for the purpose of meeting the expenses directly incurred for Crisis Intervention Team training. Further, said funds are hereby appropriated to the Berlin Police Department's Fiscal Year 2021 Budget, in addition to all other previously-appropriated funds.

This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after passage.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to remove this item from the table. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to read Resolution 2020-23 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier - yes

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to read Resolution 2020-23 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier - yes

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee that Resolution 2020-23 be passed. So moved, the motion passed by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

4. Resolution 2020-24 Election Expenses Grant (tabled 10/19/2020)

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty

A RESOLUTION accepting a grant from the Center for Tech and Civic Life from their COVID 19 Response Grant Program in the amount of \$5,918.50.

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

Whereas, the Center for Tech and Civic Life has received a \$250 million contribution to assist election jurisdictions across the country to help ensure they have the staffing, training, and equipment necessary so that every eligible voter can participate in a safe and timely way and have their vote counted; and

Whereas, the City of Berlin has seen an increased volume in requests for absentee ballots and in voter registration; and

Whereas, staffing of polls has become increasingly difficult due to the COVID 19 pandemic; and

Whereas, funds received from the Center for Tech and Civic Life can be used to offset increased pay for election workers and increased staffing in the Clerk's Office; and

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, by the Mayor and City Council that a grant in the amount of \$5,918.50 is accepted from the Center for Tech and Civic Life, and appropriated to the Berlin City Clerk's Office to assist with election costs.

Be it further resolved that the terms of the grant agreement are accepted as presented and 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 Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to remove this item from the table. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to read Resolution 2020-24 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier - yes

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to read Resolution 2020-24 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier - yes

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee that Resolution 2020-24 be passed. So moved, the motion passed by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

5. Resolution 2020-25 NH Clean Diesel Grant Program (tabled 10/19/2020)

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty

A RESOLUTION authorizing the City Manager to apply for and accept a grant from the NH Department of Environmental Services Clean Diesel Grant Program for 25% (or up to \$118,600.00) of the cost of replacing outdated Public Works equipment.

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

Whereas, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services has grant funds available to reduce diesel emissions in the State using funds available via the New Hampshire State Clean Diesel Grant Program funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for up to 25% of the cost of outdated equipment; and

Whereas, Berlin is in need of replacements for a 1999 Freightliner garbage packer and a 1999 snowblower and may further choose to replace a 2001 International salt truck.

Whereas, the grant specifies that the replaced truck(s) and snowblower shall be taken out of service no later than 15 days following the placement into service of the replacement vehicles and will be scrapped within 90 days from the date the replacements are put in to service.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, by the Mayor and City Council that a grant in the amount of 25% or up to \$118,600.00 is hereby authorized and upon receipt, such funds shall be appropriated to the Public Works Department for equipment replacement.

Be it further resolved that the terms of the grant agreement are accepted as presented and 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 Morgan, to remove this item from the table. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to read Resolution 2020-25 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier - yes

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to read Resolution 2020-25 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier - yes

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan that Resolution 2020-25 be passed. So moved, the motion passed by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

NEW BUSINESS

6. Ordinance 2020-05 Zoning Changes Affecting Commercial Solar (1st read)

Councilor Higbee moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to table the Ordinance and schedule a public hearing for November 16, 2020. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

6a. Ordinance 2020-06 Emergency Ordinance for Face Coverings (1st read)

Councilor Higbee moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to table the Ordinance and schedule a public hearing for November 9, 2020. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – no, Berthiaume – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – no, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

7. City Manager's Report

1. The demolition of the Princess Theater and the adjacent building, both 4 and 8 Main Street, is out for sealed bid due November 19, 2020. The bid specifies that the demo needs to occur by February 1, 2021.
2. Work at the Fire Department is also out for sealed bid due November 19, 2020. Repair to the Tower Roof as well as the FD Partial Demo of Adjacent Building also have a deadline of February 1, 2021 for completion.
3. Due to the recent increase in COVID cases, all activities at the Recreation Center have been suspended. As discussed during the Work Session, the recent rise has quickly led to a large amount of contact tracing and quarantining of municipal employees. We will do the best we can to maintain operations with limited staff over the next few weeks.
4. The City's parking ban came into effect on November 1. No vehicles shall be parked on City streets between the hours of Midnight and 7:00 a.m. Overnight parking is allowed in the parking lot adjacent to the Salvation Army.
5. Attached is a response from Bill Cass, PE Assistant Commissioner NHDOT to my letter of October 28, 2020 regarding Rte. 110. We are seeking some additional clarifications on what action steps and timing a transfer process would include. If we receive additional information, it will be provided to Council.
6. The PD statistics as reported to the Police Commission at their November meeting are attached.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second from Councilor Rozek, to accept the City Manager's Report and place it on file.

Councilor Rozek asked how many companies have shown interest in the demolition bid for the Princess Theater and Pam Laflamme advised four.

Councilor Rozek noted that in the letter from NHDOT, they stated that even if the City takes over the roadway, it would still be eligible for the 10-year plan as Councilor Eastman had suggested at the last meeting.

So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan- yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

8. Mayor's Report

There was no Mayor's Report.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

10. Council Comments

There were no Council comments.

11. Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Higbee, seconded by Councilor Theberge, the Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm. So moved, the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis– 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.