

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, February 1, 2021

Regular Meeting

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:30 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, Morgan, Eastman, Higbee, Rozek, Berthiaume, and Theberge
Absent: None

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

c. Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to accept the minutes of the January 18, 2021 Regular Meeting and Work Session. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier - yes

Disbursements:

Disbursement Summary Draft #1879 start date 01/19/2021 end date 02/01/2021 for a total cash disbursement of \$1,238,056.86. 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, 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.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Resolution 2021-03 City Cemetery Fees (1st read)

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to table the Resolution and schedule a public hearing for February 15, 2021. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

3. City Manager's Report

1. The Board of Tax and Land Appeals will continue its evidentiary hearing for Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. Anyone interested in accessing the hearing, should call the board's office prior to the hearing at (603) 271-2578.

2. The BFD ladder truck was delivered to Barre, Vermont on January 19, 2021. It has been repaired and we anticipate receiving it back in Berlin this week. Given that we have not yet received the rental ladder truck, it has been canceled and we will not incur the \$5,000/month rental expense. We do not yet have a final cost of repair on our truck.

3. The Capital Improvement Plan will be presented to the Planning Board at their meeting tomorrow. From there, the plan will be reviewed by the City Council. Projects listed for 2022 will be included in the early

versions of the 2022 proposed budget. We can make CIP binders available to any councilor who wants one; otherwise the CIP is available at

https://www.berlinnh.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf2811f/uploads/capital_improvement_plan_0.pdf

4. I am pleased to report that Danielle Rioux has accepted the position of City Manager's Executive Assistant. Ms. Rioux is coming to the City from the Coos County Nursing Home where she is the Human Relations Manager and Assistant to the Administrator. Her anticipated official start date is March 15, 2021.

5. I am also pleased to report that Mark Lapointe has accepted the position of Assistant Public Works Director and has been promoted to his new role effective today. As you know, Mark has been a Public Works Supervisor. In his new role, Mark will have oversight of day to day operations.

Councilor Rozek moved, with a second from Councilor Remillard, 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, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

4. Mayor's Report

a. Appointment of District Representatives to AVRDD

Honorable Mayor and City Council:

The term of office for your District Representatives and Alternates expires on March 31, 2021. Article III, Section 3.3 of the District Agreement requires that the governing body of your municipality appoint or re-appoint a Primary Representative, a first alternate and a second alternate and that these appointments be certified in writing, to the District, by your City Clerk.

Your current District Representatives are:

Primary Representative: Michael Rozek

First Alternate: Roland Theberge

Second Alternate: Thomas McCue

Please have your City Clerk confirm your appointments to the District on or before March 31, 2021.

Respectfully,

Sharon E. Gauthier
Executive Director

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second from Councilor Otis, to approve the Mayor's nominations of Michael Rozek, Primary Representative, Roland Theberge, First Alternate, and Thomas McCue, Second Alternate, as District Representatives for AVRDD. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

b. Resignation Letter from Louise Valliere

Dear Mayor Grenier,

Please accept this letter as my official notice to resign from the school board. It has been a pleasure to serve with a group of very special educators and students. Thank you and the Council for the ongoing support of our schools. I will miss it a great deal.

Sincerely,

Louise Valliere

Mayor Grenier advised they need to advertise for the position and hold a Council election for her replacement.

Councilor Rozek moved, with a second from Councilor Theberge, to accept the letter of resignation from Louise Valliere effective immediately, with deep regret. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – 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 Higbee, the Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 pm. So moved, the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan– yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

A True Record, Attest:

Shellie Fortin
City Clerk

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