

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, March 1, 2021

Public Hearing

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 7:35 pm for Resolution 2021-04 Airport Grant. There were no public comments. Mayor Grenier closed the Public Hearing at 7:36 pm.

Regular Meeting

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:36 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, Susan Tremblay, JD Girard, Holly Larsen, Nathan Morin, Marion Moore, Shelli Fortin, and Barbara Tetreault, Berlin Daily Sun

c. Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to accept the minutes of the February 15, 2021 Regular Meeting and Work Session and February 22, 2021 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 #1882 start date 02/17/2021 end date 03/01/2021 for a total cash disbursement of \$961,106.49. 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, 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.

2. Resolution 2021-04 Airport Grant (tabled 2/15/2021)

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-One

A RESOLUTION rescinding Resolution # 2021-02 and replacing it with Resolution #2021-04 authorizing the Berlin Airport Authority to apply for and accept grant funds in the amount of \$261,993.35 from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and \$3,492.82 from the NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT) for “Apron & Stub Taxiway Pavement Maintenance, Overlay, Markings and Area Lighting Improvements” at the Berlin Regional Airport

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

Whereas, funding for the project is available through the Federal Aviation Administration, and NH Department of Transportation; and

Whereas, the project includes pavement preservation, with full depth crack repair and a 1 inch pavement overlay; pavement markings and area lighting improvements on the airport's taxiway, and

Whereas, the Berlin Airport Authority reviewed the project and the options at their September 21, 2020 meeting; and

Whereas, the FAA will pay \$261,993.35, the NHDOT and the City (Berlin Airport) will each pay half of the non-federal share of this project (i.e., NHDOT pays \$3,492.82 and the City pays \$3,492.83); and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

That the Berlin Airport Authority is authorized to apply for and receive \$261,993.35 of grant funds from the Federal Aviation Administration and \$3,492.82 from the NHDOT for "Apron & Stub Taxiway Pavement Maintenance, Overlay, Markings and Area Lighting Improvements" at the Berlin Regional Airport and upon receipt, these funds are hereby appropriated to the Airport Fund.

Be it further resolved that the Chair of the Berlin Airport Authority, Paul Grenier, 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 Higbee, to remove this item from the table. 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

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to read Resolution 2021-04 by short title for a second time. 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

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to read Resolution 2021-04 by short title for a third time. 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

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee that Resolution 2021-04 be passed. So moved, the motion passed by roll call vote. Higbee- yes, Rozek – yes, Berthiaume – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

NEW BUSINESS

3. City Manager's Report

1. The Phase 2 Contract 1 I&I Removal Project is virtual bid opening is scheduled for 3/17/2021 at 2:00 PM. There is a virtual pre-bid meeting tomorrow on 3/2/21 a 10:00 AM.
2. Community Development Director Pam Laflamme, PD Communications Manager Jen Cloutier and I will be attending a virtual Cyber Security Summit on March 2 put on by Primex. Officials from two New Hampshire communities will discuss their experiences dealing with cybersecurity incidents. The intent of the summit is help communities understand the real threat posed by cyber criminals and help to educate them on the need to be proactive.
3. If you wish to receive the NHMA Legislative Bulletin in your **in box** you must subscribe to this new service at the NHMA web site: <https://www.nhmunicipal.org/legislative-bulletins> . The bulletins are an easy way to stay on top of legislation that is most pressing to municipalities. New Bulletins are generally published each Friday during the legislative season.

4. Over the last couple of weeks, Chief Watkins with the assistance of Chief Cloutier from Gorham have vaccinated residents of St. Regis and Berlin Housing on-site at their facilities. In all, 70 first doses have been given with second doses targeted for the middle of March. Chief Watkins and Chief Cloutier will team up again this week to administer vaccine on-site at Birch Grove in Gorham this week.
5. The State Office of Emergency Management announced to municipalities today that it intends to hold a COVID Vaccine Super Site event at the Loudon Speedway on Sat., Sun and Mon. (3/6,7&8). The intent of the event is to allow NH residents who are 65 and older, who are currently scheduled in April for vaccination. If they re-schedule for this event, they will be able to receive their vaccination sooner and this will open up dates for others in April. The Johnson and Johnson vaccine will be distributed at the Super Site.

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, Berthiaume – yes, Theberge – yes, Remillard – yes, Otis – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Grenier – yes

4. Mayor's Report

Mayor Grenier advised that he received a call from Mark Knowlton today advising that he was going to have to resign from BIDPA for personal reasons. Knowlton was recently nominated, and has attended a couple meetings, but unfortunately will not be able to continue serving on the board.

Councilor Rozek moved, with a second from Councilor Higbee, to accept the resignation of Mark Knowlton from BIDPA. 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

Pamela Laflamme advised that BIDPA is now at 11 members, and can have up to 15. They are currently looking for someone with financial experience to fill the role of Treasurer. Laflamme also advised that many of the Board members have been serving for 10 years and are ready to step down. They will be looking for new members to help fill some of those leadership roles. Members can be from Gorham, as long as 2/3 of the board are Berlin residents. Laflamme advised that anyone with an interest in the Economic Development of the region is welcome to participate. Mayor Grenier asked that if anyone knows of someone who may be interested in serving, to let him know and he will contact them. Councilor Higbee also noted that the board currently has no female members, and a woman's perspective would be welcome.

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, 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

Councilor Eastman asked if the Council could be given an update on the Route 110 project at the next meeting, as he would like to see work begin this summer for the water and sewer lines.

Councilor Eastman asked if the Riverwalk Project was still slated to begin this summer, and Pamela Laflamme advised it is and is scheduled to go out to bid the last week of May.

7. Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Rozek, seconded by Councilor Higbee, the Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 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

Mayor Grenier reminded the Council of the budget meeting with the School Board on Thursday, March 4 at 6:30 pm.

A True Record, Attest:

Shelli Fortin
City Clerk

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