

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, February 21, 2022

Public Hearing

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 7:30 pm for Resolution 2022-05 Fire Department Grant Zoll X. Chief Watkins explained the purpose of the grant and how the cardiac monitor will be used. There were no other public comments. Mayor Grenier closed the Public Hearing at 7:33 pm.

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 7:33 pm for Resolution 2022-06 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Engine 3. There were no public comments. Mayor Grenier closed the Public Hearing at 7:34 pm.

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 7:34 pm for Resolution 2022-07 Assistance to Firefighters Grant SCBA Compressor. There were no public comments. Mayor Grenier closed the Public Hearing at 7:34 pm.

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 7:34 pm for Resolution 2022-08 Recreation Department Donation from Vail Resorts/Wildcat. There were no public comments. Mayor Grenier closed the Public Hearing at 7:35 pm.

Regular Meeting

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:35 p.m.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Grenier, Councilors Remillard, Morgan, Eastman, Roland Theberge, Robert Theberge, Higbee, Morency, and Berthiaume

Absent: None

Also present: Interim City Manager Pamela Laflamme, City Clerk Shelli Fortin, Fire Chief James Watkins, Superintendent Julie King, Marion Moore, Tom McCue, Lori Korzen, and William Carroll, Berlin Daily Sun.

c. Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to accept the minutes of the February 7, 2022 Regular Meeting and Work Session, and the work session of February 14, 2022. So moved, the motion passed.

Disbursements:

Disbursement Summary Draft #1906 start date 02/10/2022 end date 02/21/2022 for a total cash disbursement of \$1,017,472.15. Councilor Roland 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 passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Council Committee Reports

There were no Council committee reports.

2. Resolution 2022-05 Fire Department Grant Zoll X (tabled 2/7/2022)

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Two

A RESOLUTION accepting a Locality Equipment Purchase Program

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

WHEREAS, The Fire Department will apply for the Locality Equipment Purchase Program; and

WHEREAS, if this grant is awarded the City would be responsible for a 10% match to this grant totaling \$4,760.00; and

WHEREAS, The Fire Department does not currently have a Zoll X series cardiac monitor and this piece of equipment can be used to assess patients on medical calls and fire calls. This piece of equipment can be used for vital signs, cardiac rhythms, pacing, defibrillation, CPR feedback, SpO2 and EtCO2. Lifesaving interventions can be started based on data received from this equipment.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Berlin, NH that if awarded the Locality Equipment Purchase Program, the City will authorize the expense of \$4,760 which will come from donations given to the Fire Department (2022-04)

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.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to read Resolution 2022-05 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to read Resolution 2022-05 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, that Resolution 2022-05 be passed. So moved, the motion passed.

3. Resolution 2022-06 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Engine 3 (tabled 2/7/2022)

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Two

A RESOLUTION accepting an Assistance to Firefighters Grant for \$704,841.90

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

WHEREAS, The Fire Department will apply for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant to replace Engine 3; and

WHEREAS, if this grant is awarded the City would be responsible for a 5% match to this grant totaling \$35,563.90; and

WHEREAS, Engine 3 is 40 years old, has failed its pump test and the brakes are not working properly. Due to age of this piece of apparatus its usable service life has expired.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Berlin, NH that if awarded the Assistance to Firefighters Grant, the City will authorize the expense of \$35,563.90

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.

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to read Resolution 2022-06 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to read Resolution 2022-06 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, that Resolution 2022-06 be passed. So moved, the motion passed.

4. Resolution 2022-07 Assistance to Firefighters Grant SCBA Compressor (tabled 2/7/2022)

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Two

A RESOLUTION accepting an Assistance to Firefighters Grant for \$59,860.00

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

WHEREAS, The Fire Department will apply for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant to replace the Air Compressor/Cascade/Fill Station for filling SCBA; and

WHEREAS, if this grant is awarded the City would be responsible for a 5% match to this grant totaling \$2,968.00; and

WHEREAS, The SCBA compressor at the Fire Station is over 20 years old and needs to be replaced.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Berlin, NH that if awarded the Assistance to Firefighters Grant, the City will authorize the expense of \$2,968.00

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

Councilor Higbee moved, with a second by Councilor Berthiaume, to remove this item from the table. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Higbee moved, with a second by Councilor Berthiaume, to read Resolution 2022-07 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Higbee moved, with a second by Councilor Berthiaume, to read Resolution 2022-07 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Higbee moved, with a second by Councilor Berthiaume, that Resolution 2022-07 be passed. So moved, the motion passed.

5. Resolution 2022-08 Recreation Department Donation from Vail Resorts/Wildcat (tabled 2/7/2022)

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Two

A RESOLUTION accepting a donation of \$9,000.00 to the Berlin Recreation Department from Vail Resorts Management Company/Wildcat Mountain through their employee foundation.

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

WHEREAS, Vail Resorts Management Company seeks to provide funding to communities and programs in their operating area for the betterment of the region; and

WHEREAS, they awarded \$9,000.00 each to both the Berlin and Gorham Recreation Departments; and

WHEREAS, the money is unrestricted and can be used by the department at their discretion for the benefit of the community.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Berlin, NH accepts a donation of \$9,000.00 for the Berlin Recreation Department from Vail Resorts Management Company through their employee foundation and the City Manager is authorized to do all things necessary to effectuate the donation.

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.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to read Resolution 2022-08 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to read Resolution 2022-08 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, that Resolution 2022-08 be passed. So moved, the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

6. Ratification of Labor Agreements

Mayor Grenier noted that some employees in the school system are making only \$10 per hour, while fast food restaurants are paying more than that. Mayor Grenier stated that these employees are needed to work with the students, along with the bus drivers, to keep the school system running.

Mayor Grenier read the cost items into the record for the agreement with AFSCME Local 1444. The cost for year one of the contract is \$18,506.08. The cost for year two is \$34,877.35. The total cost is \$53,383.43. The contract will take effect on July 1, 2022.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to accept the cost items of the labor agreement with AFSCME Local 1444, for a total of \$53,383.43.

Councilor Robert Theberge asked what the hourly rate will be, and Mayor Grenier advised it will depend on the position.

So moved, the motion passed by roll call vote. Robert Theberge – yes, Higbee- yes, Berthiaume – yes, Morency – yes, Remillard – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Roland Theberge – yes, Grenier - yes

Mayor Grenier read the cost items into the record for the agreement with BESS. The cost for year one of the contract is \$151,914.68. The cost for year two is \$233,815.76. The total cost is \$385,730.43. Superintendent Julie King advised there are between 80-100 full and part-time employees covered under this contract.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to accept the cost items of the labor agreement with BESS, for a total of \$385,730.43.

Councilor Robert Theberge noted that although there are citizens who believe that the public-school system is not doing what it needs to teach the students, he has noticed that those he teaches at the college in Berlin are far better educated than those he teaches in Laconia or at NHTI.

Councilor Morency asked about the percentage of the raise and was advised it is 3%.

So moved, the motion passed by roll call vote. Robert Theberge – yes, Higbee- yes, Berthiaume – yes, Morency – yes, Remillard – yes, Morgan – yes, Eastman – yes, Roland Theberge – abstain, Grenier - yes

Mayor Grenier stated he is eternally grateful to the employees of the school for the work done during these difficult times.

7. City Manager's Report

There was no City Manager's Report.

8. Mayor's Report

- a. Mayor Grenier noted the passing of Roger Charest, who was a long-time coach for Berlin Youth Hockey and was a member of the Notre Dame Arena Board of Directors. Mayor Grenier stated that Mr. Charest was very active in the community and will be dearly missed.

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 Berthiaume, the Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 pm. So moved, the motion carried.

A True Record, Attest:

Shelli Fortin
City Clerk

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