

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, May 2, 2022

Public Hearing

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 7:47 pm for Resolution 2022-16 Roderick Blackburn Fund Grant for Library. There were no public comments. Mayor Grenier closed the Public Hearing at 7:47 pm.

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 7:47 pm for Resolution 2022-17 CLiF Revive Your Literacy Programming Grant. There were no public comments. Mayor Grenier closed the Public Hearing at 7:48 pm.

Regular Meeting

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:48 pm, and welcomed the new City Manager, Mr. Phillip Warren, Jr.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Roll Call

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

Absent: Councilors Eastman and Berthiaume

Also present: City Manager Phillip Warren, Jr, Community Development Director Pamela Laflamme, Library Director Ann Brungot, City Clerk Shelli Fortin, Police Chief Daniel Buteau, Lori Korzen, John Sullivan, Micah Bachner, Amber Bachner, and William Carroll, Berlin Daily Sun.

c. Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to accept the minutes of the April 18, 2022 Regular Meeting and Work Session, and the Work Session of April 25, 2022. So moved, the motion passed.

Disbursements:

Disbursement Summary Draft #1911 start date 04/19/2022 end date 05/02/2022 for a total cash disbursement of \$1,218,322.06. 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

John Sullivan of 478 Hillside Avenue advised that he has lived here for seven years, having moved here from the West coast. Mr. Sullivan advised that he used to work for the Department of Corrections and is 100% behind the badge, but is concerned about closed circuit cameras. Mr. Sullivan stated that there is one that looks into his backyard and he has never heard of any public hearings or discussion on the topic, and feels that the Council should consider having a vote to see what the citizens think of it. Mr. Sullivan stated that he believes as Americans we should strive for an open and free society, and recommends that the City Council discuss the matter or he will take legal action. Mr. Sullivan advised that Berlin has a fine Police Department, but he does not like the idea of 24/7 surveillance. Mr. Sullivan stated he has written letters to the paper, but the articles were not printed. Mayor Grenier advised Mr. Sullivan to speak with the Police Department about the matter, and noted that he is on the same page concerning freedom.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Council Committee Reports

There were no Council committee reports.

2. Resolution 2022-16 Roderick Blackburn Fund Grant for Library (tabled 4/18/2022)

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Two

A RESOLUTION authorizing the acceptance of grant funding in the amount of \$2,110.44 for Berlin Public Library from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation; funding established by the Roderick H. Blackburn Designated Fund.

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

WHEREAS, funding has been established by the Roderick H. Blackburn Designated Fund for use by Berlin Public Library and distributed by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Blackburn was a longtime Berlin resident and very generous with many organizations here in Berlin and this fund is one of several set up by his estate that will benefit Berlin residents for years to come; and

WHEREAS, these funds are distributed in perpetuity and are dispersed around February 15th of each year; and

WHEREAS, fund balances fluctuate with the market, with the grant amount for the year 2022 being \$2,110.44; and

WHEREAS, the money is unrestricted and can be used at the discretion of the Library Board of Trustees.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Berlin, NH accepts the amount of \$2,110.44 for the year 2022 and all subsequent grants from the Roderick H. Blackburn Designated Fund distributed by New Hampshire Charitable Foundation and the City Manager is authorized to do all things necessary to effectuate this 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.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to read Resolution 2022-16 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to read Resolution 2022-16 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, that Resolution 2022-16 be passed. So moved, the motion passed.

3. Resolution 2022-17 CLiF Revive Your Literacy Programming Grant (tabled 4/18/2022)

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Two

A RESOLUTION authorizing the acceptance of \$1,000.00 from the Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF) Revive Your Literacy Programming grant for the purpose of recognizing the importance of pollinators in the food cycle by establishing gardens with emphasis on raised garden beds or container gardens for small spaces or urban areas.

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

WHEREAS, 46% of Berlin's population reside in apartments and multi-family dwellings and land space may be limited; and

WHEREAS, the Berlin Public Library will host presentations from local groups highlighting different types of pollinators and their many attributes; and

WHEREAS, Berlin Public Library will offer children's book readings and crafts about butterflies, bees, and other pollinators; and

WHEREAS, Berlin Public Library will host a planting event using raised garden beds and container gardens within Kelley Park to illustrate the viability of gardening in small spaces that attract pollinators.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Berlin, NH accepts the amount of \$1,000.00 for the year 2022 distributed by the Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF) Revive Your Literacy Programming grant

and the City Manager is authorized to do all things necessary to effectuate this 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.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to read Resolution 2022-17 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to read Resolution 2022-17 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, that Resolution 2022-17 be passed. So moved, the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

4. Resolution 2022-18 Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant (first read)

Councilor Higbee moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to table the Resolution and schedule a public hearing for May 16, 2022. So moved, the motion carried.

5. Resolution 2022-19 Speed Limit Change Route 110 (first read)

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to table the Resolution and schedule a public hearing for May 16, 2022. So moved, the motion carried.

6. City Manager's Report

1. FD Locality Equipment Matching Program - Governor and Council Approval. (Resolution 2022-05).
2. Mount Carberry Secure Landfill – NHDES notice letter.
3. Oil and Propane bid Award.
4. Attached is the Fire Chief's April report, the Monthly Incident Report and the EMS call volume report.
5. NHMA Right-to-Know Workshop-Electronic Materials.
6. I&I Building Demo Status & Update
7. Downtown Day of Caring – Berlin Main Street Program – Friday May 20, 2022

Community Development Director Pamela Laflamme advised the Council that 446 Hillsboro Street, 576 Goebel Street, and 190 Glen Avenue have been demolished. They are hoping to do 469 Hillsboro Street this week, and 825 Second Avenue before May 15. Ms. Laflamme advised the company has been good to work with and is on schedule. Ms. Laflamme advised that they have had to move around the order of the list due to issues with Eversource disconnecting power, and a pole in front of a property. Ms. Laflamme advised that the City is prohibited from selling these properties for the duration of the loan. Mayor Grenier asked if the property could be leased and Ms. Laflamme advised she could ask DES. Ms. Laflamme advised that split rail fences will be put up, and the areas will be planted with grass.

Councilor Robert Theberge asked about the Right-to-Know Workshop, which Ms. Laflamme advised was held virtually last week. Ms. Laflamme advised it is her hope to have NHMA do a workshop locally for the Council and Boards.

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to accept the City Manager's Report and place it on file. So moved, the motion passed.

7. Mayor's Report

a. Planning Board Appointment

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

I was in attendance at City Hall on the evening that a vacancy became available on Berlin's Planning Board and would like to submit my name for consideration as a potential replacement for a term ending in April of 2024. After several years of attempting to manifest our desire to set roots in New Hampshire's North Woods Region, my wife and I arrived in Berlin at the beginning of October, 2021. We had long dreamed of being active participants in a community we could call our own and quickly began attending weekly City Hall meetings. It is my great pleasure to have the opportunity to finally put my motivation to work.

I could not summarize my life better than Seasick Steve deftly summarizing his own, "I started out with nothing and still got most of it left." I am an Army Veteran, hold a B.A. in Marine Biology, and have started building two small businesses here in Berlin. I have traveled the world over as a sight-seer, researcher, and soldier. I have connected with each culture along the way through the ubiquity of our human experience. I have failed much and learned on each occasion. Consequently, I am able to understand the perspectives and desires of disparate voices. Berlin is a beautifully located city and its residents are passionate about its future. I deeply want to bring our disparate voices into one accord to the harmony of one word, "community." Thank You.

Respectfully,
Micah Bachner
59 High St.
Berlin, NH 03570

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second from Councilor Morgan, to approve the Mayor's nomination of Micah Bacher as an alternate member of the Planning Board, with a term to expire April 30, 2024. So moved, the motion carried.

b. Planning Board Re-appointments

Mayor Grenier & City Council:

April is the month in which Planning Board memberships turn over. We are looking to reappoint Anthony Valliere to a new three-year term. Both Brian Valerino and Suzanne Wasileski terms are expiring this month as well but neither will be seeking another term. We appreciate each of their time with the Planning Board and will miss their contributions. With that in mind, we are proposing to move two alternate members to regular voting membership to replace our two outgoing members. We also need to replace Ted Bosen who resigned earlier this month.

- Henry Noel – Three-year term to run until April 30, 2025, regular board member.
- Karen Collins – Three-year term to run until April 30, 2025, regular board member.
- Jennifer Lazzaro – One-year term to run until April 30, 2023, regular board member to fill the unexpired term of Ted Bosen.
- Anthony Valliere – Three-term to fun until April 30, 2025, regular board member.

We thank you all for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Pamela Laflamme
Community Development Director

Councilor Morency moved, with a second from Councilor Higbee, to approve the Mayor's nominations of Henry Noel and Karen Collins as regular members of the Planning Board, with terms to expire April 30, 2025, the nomination of Jennifer Lazzaro as a regular member of the Planning Board to fill the unexpired term of Ted Bosen, with a term to expire April 30, 2023, and the re-appointment of Anthony Valliere as a regular member of the Planning Board, for a term to expire April 30, 2025.

Councilor Robert Theberge objected to the appointment of Henry Noel on behalf of Vietnam Veterans, as he believes the public should be aware of Mr. Noel's views and actions during the Vietnam War.

So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Robert Theberge – no, Higbee – yes, Morency – yes, Remillard – yes, Morgan – yes, Roland Theberge – yes, Grenier - yes

c. Zoning Board Appointment

Mayor Grenier & City Council:

The Zoning Board of Adjustment has one appointment that will expire in the month of April and that member wishes to seek another three-year term with the board.

- Tiffany Hale – Three-year term to run from May 2022 until April 30, 2025, regular board member.

Ms. Hale started as an alternate and moved up to the position of a regular board member and has served on the Zoning Board for the past four years.

We thank you all for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Pamela Laflamme
Community Development Director

Councilor Roland Theberge moved, with a second from Councilor Morgan, to approve the Mayor's re-nomination of Tiffany Hale as a member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, with a term to expire April 30, 2025. So moved, the motion carried.

d. Kids to Parks Day Proclamation

**Proclaiming May 21, 2022, as Kids to Parks
Day in the city of Berlin, NH**

WHEREAS, May 21, 2022, is the twelfth Kids to Parks Day organized and launched by the National Park Trust held annually on the third Saturday of May; and

WHEREAS, Kids to Parks Day empowers kids and encourages families to get outdoors and visit America's parks, public lands and waters; and

WHEREAS, we should encourage children to lead a more active lifestyle to combat issues of childhood obesity, diabetes, hypertension and hypercholesterolemia; and

WHEREAS, Kids to Parks Day will broaden children's appreciation for nature and outdoors.

WHEREAS, Kids to Parks Day will recognize the importance of recreating responsibly while enjoying the benefits of the outdoors.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Mayor Paul Grenier, do hereby proclaim May 21, 2022, as **Kids to Parks Day**.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Roland Theberge, to accept the Kids to Parks Day Proclamation and place it on file. So moved, the motion passed.

8. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

9. Council Comments

There were no Council comments.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Morgan, seconded by Councilor Higbee, the Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 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.