

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, November 7, 2022

Public Hearing

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 7:12 pm for Resolution 2022-31 ARPA.

Chief Daniel Buteau advised this grant is in the amount of \$14,500 for funds to get an officer into the school a few hours per week. This would cover two 4-hour blocks per week during key times to supplement the SRO position.

There were no public comments. Mayor Grenier closed the Public Hearing at 7:13 pm.

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 7:13 pm for Resolution 2022-32 Prohibited Parking High and School Street Intersection.

Amber Bachner spoke in favor of the Resolution stating that she lives on High Street and has seen many near accidents at this intersection.

Mayor Grenier closed the Public Hearing at 7:14 pm.

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 7:14 pm for Resolution 2022-33 Easement Request – Downtown Parking Lot.

Community Development Director Pamela Laflamme advised that the construction company for the new Walgreens building found that the electric connection used by the former Citizen's Bank was not a good place for power, and the best place to locate it was through the city parking lot. This Resolution will grant an easement to lay the electrical service.

There were no public comments. Mayor Grenier closed the Public Hearing at 7:15 pm.

Regular Meeting

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:15 pm.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Roll Call

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

Absent: Councilor Morgan

Also present: Community Development Director Pamela Laflamme, Finance Director Holly Larsen, City Clerk Shelli Fortin, Chief Daniel Buteau, Amber Bachner, Micah Bachner, Lori Korzen, and Lisa Connell, Berlin Daily Sun.

c. Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Morency, to accept the minutes of the October 17, 2022 Regular Meeting and Work Session. So moved, the motion passed.

Disbursements:

Disbursement Summary Draft #1924 start date 10/18/2022 end date 11/07/2022 for a total cash disbursement of \$2,047,601.67. Councilor Roland 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 passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Council Committee Reports

There were no Council committee reports.

2. Resolution 2022-31 ARPA Grant PD (tabled 10/17/2022)

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Two

A RESOLUTION authorizing the Berlin Police Commission to apply for and receive grant funds from the New Hampshire Department of Justice, for the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act Municipalities.

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

WHEREAS it is the mission of the Berlin Police Department to provide community-oriented law enforcement, designed to protect life, property and maintain order, while assuring fair and equal treatment for all and to continually enhance the training and expertise of each member of the police force; and

WHEREAS the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act Municipalities provides funding for activities related to relaxed COVID-19 restrictions; such as funding for a detail officer to be in the Berlin Public Schools to help mitigate behavioral issues that have been exacerbated by the transition from remote learning to the structured school setting; and

WHEREAS an increased police presence has been proven to reduce negative student behavior; and

WHEREAS the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act Municipalities provides the critical funding to allow our agency to dedicate resources to increase officer presence in the Berlin Public Schools.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Berlin, NH, that the Berlin Police Commission is authorized to apply for and receive grant funds from the New Hampshire Department of Justice, for the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act Municipalities. Said funds granted to the City of Berlin will be used for the purpose of meeting the expenses directly included in the purpose of the grant during Fiscal Year 2022 and 2023. Be it further resolved that the City Manager is authorized to sign the grant documents and execute 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.

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to read Resolution 2022-31 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to read Resolution 2022-31 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, that Resolution 2022-31 be passed. So moved, the motion passed.

3. Resolution 2022-32 Prohibited Parking High and School Street Intersection (tabled 10/17/2022)

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Two

A RESOLUTION amending the City of Berlin's Ordinances, specifically ARTICLE III STOPPING, STANDING AND PARKING Sec. 15-69. Prohibited at all times in designated places.

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

Whereas, the Traffic and Safety Committee received a request to extend a no parking area and the committee endorsed such a change at its October 3, 2022 meeting; and

Whereas, pursuant to the City of Berlin's Code of Ordinances Sec. 15-69. Prohibited at all times in designated places are amended by resolution.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

That City Council of the City of Berlin hereby amends the City of Berlin's Ordinances, specifically Section 15-69 to extend the no parking area on High Street, as it intersects with School Street, within (30) feet of the easterly corner.

This Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon passage.

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

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to read Resolution 2022-32 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to read Resolution 2022-32 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, that Resolution 2022-32 be passed. So moved, the motion passed.

4. Resolution 2022-33 Easement Request – Downtown Parking Lot (tabled 10/17/2022)

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Two

A RESOLUTION granting an easement to FIDC 126 LLC across city property.

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

Whereas, the aforementioned corporation is the owner of 173 Pleasant Street, Map 119 lot 241, and

Whereas, that property is being developed, requires electrical power and has no other means to secure power except for through the city parking lot located at Cole and Mason Street, Map 119, Lot 119, and

Whereas, an easement from the city will be required for the installation of said electrical service and the aforementioned landowner has requested said easement.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

That City Council of the City of Berlin hereby offers an easement to FIDC 126 LLC to install underground electrical service through the aforementioned city parking lot to their property. All costs of said easement shall be borne by FIDC 126 LLC, furthermore to authorize the City Manager to take all actions necessary to complete said easement.

This Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon 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 2022-33 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to read Resolution 2022-33 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Berthiaume moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, that Resolution 2022-33 be passed.

Councilor Roland Theberge stated that he mentioned before that there is a difference between hot patch and cold patch and wants to be sure it is seamless. Mayor Grenier advised that the City Manger stated it would be.

So moved, the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Resolution 2022-34 Veterans Tax Credit (1st read)

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to table the Resolution and schedule a public hearing for November 21, 2022. So moved, the motion carried.

2. City Manager's Report

Community Development Director Pamela Laflamme requested that the Council vote to approve the MS1 in addition to signing.

Councilor Higbee moved, with a second by Councilor Berthiaume to approve the MS1 as submitted. So moved, the motion carried. Eastman-recused

1. Attached is the September 2022 Property Transfer list.
2. Attached is the Fire Chief's October report, the Monthly Incident Report and the EMS call volume report.
3. Attached is the AV Home Care mid-year report.
4. Attached please find the BWW – Municipal Water Usage from July 1, 2022 to October 1, 2022 (November 2022 Billing Quarter).
5. The Riverwalk final walk through was completed and punch list items were identified. It is anticipated that the snow fencing will stay up this winter and early spring to ensure that the grass areas have an opportunity to grow undisturbed. Punch list items include the railings for the overlook areas, trash receptacles and some "fit and finish" deficiencies.
6. It is anticipated that, at the City Council meeting to be held on November 21, the resolution for segregated / carryover funds will have its first read and a discussion on the setting of the tax rate will occur.

Ms. Laflamme also advised that City Hall is having trouble with the voicemail system. The company that serviced it is no longer in business, and the system is outdated. Ms. Laflamme advised that if anyone leaves a message and it is not returned in a day or so, to please call back. Mayor Grenier requested that this also be included in the newspaper for the citizens to be aware.

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

3. Mayor's Report

a. Letter from Deborah Haynes-Kenney re: Blind Driveway

Hello,

My name is Deborah Haynes-Kenney, and my family and I live on 32 Ramsey St. in Berlin. Recently my neighbor has installed a fence that goes to the edge of her driveway. We have tried to adjust to this for a couple of weeks to see how things go. I have discovered that the height and length of this fence has created an issue of a blind driveway for my family and I. I have concerns for the safety of my family, myself and other residents/community members that may drive, walk or bicycle by my residents as we are not able to safely see oncoming traffic. I fear that this now driveway could create an accident and harm others. I am requesting for the city to assess this recently installed fence for the height and or possibly put a sign prior to my driveway that states a "Blind driveway ahead" and install a safety traffic mirror for us to be able to see if there is oncoming traffic. Please feel free to contact me via cell for any further questions. 603-915-0981.

Sincerely,
Deborah Haynes-Kenney

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan, to send the letter to the Traffic and Safety Committee for review, and notify Ms. Haynes-Kenney when the meeting is held.

Councilor Roland Theberge asked if the fence was legally permitted and constructed and was advised it was. Councilor Morency advised those questions will also be part of the Traffic and Safety Committee review to look at more closely.

So moved, the motion carried.

b. Proclamation – Extra Mile Day

WHEREAS, Berlin is a community which acknowledges that a special vibrancy exists with the entire community when its individual citizens collectively “go the extra mile” in personal effort, volunteerism, and service; and

WHEREAS, Berlin is a community which encourages its citizens to maximize their personal contribution to the community by giving of themselves wholeheartedly and with total effort, commitment, and conviction to their individual ambitions, family, friends and community; and

WHEREAS, Berlin is a community which chooses to shine a light on and celebrate individuals and organizations within its community who “go the extra mile” in order to make a difference and lift up fellow members of their community; and

WHEREAS, Berlin acknowledges the mission of the Extra Mile America Foundation to create 300 Extra Mile cities in America and is proud to support “Extra Mile Day” on November 1, 2022.

NOW THEREFORE I, Mayor of Berlin, New Hampshire do hereby proclaim November 1, 2022 to be Extra Mile Day. I urge each individual in the community to take time on this day to not only “go the extra mile” in his or her own life, but to also acknowledge all those around who are inspirational in their efforts and commitment to make their organizations, families, community, country or world a better place.

c. BTLA Case Charges

Mayor Grenier advised that he and the City Manager have received calls from the public asking how much the City has spent defending the Board of Assessors in the BTLA case. Mayor Grenier advised it is a sizeable amount, a total of \$161,167.10, of which \$35,000 was covered by insurance.

d. Letter from Gold House Restaurant re: Parking

For the Attention of Berlin NH City Council,

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Eleni Koxarakis, I am writing this letter on behalf of my husband Tony Koxarakis, proprietor of Gold House Pizza, Berlin NH, situated on 30 Mechanic Street.

We would like to petition the Council Board for specific designated parking space.

I am aware of the difficult situation as there is very little allocated parking and understand that private business parking may conflict with the City Council regulations, unfortunately without parking space for my deliveries and staff, of whom many hold much needed stock in their vehicles, as well as Tony and I, we would be forced to move to Gorham or just close. It has grown to be that impossible.

Allow me to at least explain my situation. I currently have four vehicles that come and go at any point of the day, multiple times with varying degrees of stock load, we are constantly running for stock that our deliveries do not cover or have failed to supply, so these staff members have to carry three, sometimes four cases of lettuce (for example) from their car to the shop and typically have been forced to park a good 10min walk away with the weight of produce or bread rolls and wraps and even cleaning products which we order by the case or buy in bulk from Walmart or Berlin Market Place. We have tried to manage the space in Gold House to the point where we renovated only to incorporate stock storage, but still, we cannot keep up. Over the years we have used the three parking spaces within Northway Bank parking, closest to our shop, as it allows us the freedom to come and go between orders and retrieve what is necessary for that night/day. Now they have been banned and rudely confronted by Northway Bank

for using the three parking spaces, facing our shop. I understand that they own their parking and have allocated it specifically for customers, so we can't argue their point, however, this morning I was parked in the bank parking, car still running, when I was approached quite venomously, and told to move immediately, I tried to explain I was only waiting for the parking space right next to my shop to open up so I did not have to walk carrying my Booth stained glass that weighs quite enough to warrant me parking closer if I could. Needless to say, the gentleman that was so unjustly and disgustingly rude to me would not even listen for a second, granted they are probably so annoyed with us, but I feel he could have been a little more considerate since they have ample parking with their two lots behind the bank as well as, like he said " All their staff" park in the parking lot next to Irving's, even though this is not true. There are three Bank staff members that park on the Mechanic Street parking, I have asked them to be considerate and allow myself and my staff to park there due to our circumstances, but they refuse and hold a grudge when we use their parking. The off-street parking is not allocated to any specifically but since they have their parking and do not need to carry in heavy loads, I feel this is a small space to ask for, to avoid any more unpleasant confrontations. My employees are sore and tired from running from various parking spaces, too far to run daily in all sorts of weather conditions, and then to have to put in a 10-hour shift running and lifting and the stress of the customers complaining that food is taking too long because we must wait for SOMEONE to get the chance to run across the street for rolls. I know for a fact that everyone has seen me carrying 50 bags of bread rolls into the shop from my car, in the middle of snowstorm, I'm exhausted and still must apologize and smile even though not a single person will offer to help, especially anyone from the Bank. I have also carried in a whole case of lettuce from the parking outside Smith & Town (who did not complain), with two fractured wrists and so stressed and drenched from the rain, and STILL the bank refused to move their vehicles. This is too much and too difficult for it to be worth the trouble for myself and Tony.

Then on Tuesday, as well as many other days, the Bank staff have parked right in front of Gold House preventing my delivery trucks from having easy access, so they parked on Pleasant Street, next to Irving's, not only causing traffic complications, but also and insurmountable amount of stress, balancing a huge amount of heavy loads onto his dolly, on a downhill slope, maneuvering the sidewalk, trying to cross, then trying to get through our emergency exit door, and has now complained to his superiors, who in turn are legally bound to limit their staff work load for their safety and have consequently limited our deliveries to days that we are closed, and even one of them, completely until we can solve their delivery situation. This is not good business for us, and quite upsetting. Gold House can no longer exist without the support of the City Council, even though we've never complained about the few other situations that fall on the councils' shoulders to keep a business running. Tony and I are loathed to complain, we want to be self-sufficient and capable of solving our own problems and still serve our customers with the joy we once had. This is no longer the case.

All we ask for is the Mechanic Street off-road parking. That only gives me three parking spaces for my staff, one parking for Tony, (not even me on stock days) and the barely existent two parking spaces right next to Gold House for my delivery trucks.

I have convinced Tony to hold off his move to Gorham until after we have heard from the City Council, Gold House will not suffer or disintegrate from your lack of support as we have our building in Gorham with ample parking already incorporated, we understand that there is only so much you can do without our facing further complications from other private businesses, it would just be unfortunate to have to move.

So, just to clarify, we are asking for 5 parking spaces, to have the signs up stating it is specifically for Gold House Staff and Deliveries, this is a huge benefit to our timeline and therefor our production line which in turn effects our income.

All we ask is to consider us and give me any helpful information to move forward. We thank you for your time and consideration and the effort to accept our letter of Parking Petition.

We look forward to hearing from you, regardless of the outcome, we appreciate the City Board and their position in this regard.

Kind Regards

Eleni Koxarakis & the Gold House Family.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Higbee, to send the letter to the Traffic and Safety Committee for review, and notify the Koxarakis family when the meeting is held.

Mayor Grenier requested that a bank executive also be requested to attend the meeting, as this is possibly a personality conflict that can be resolved. Mayor Grenier also noted that the restaurant needs to have a container for refuse, either a dumpster or an enclosure. Councilor Roland Theberge noted that the City should try to do as much as they can to keep the business here, as if the City does not react, they will. Councilor Berthiaume asked how quickly the Traffic and Safety Committee could meet, and Councilor Morency advised they could meet before the

next Council meeting. Community Development Director Pamela Laflamme advised there is a two-hour parking limit on Mechanic Street, which is not enforced. It was suggested that a loading zone, with 30-minute parking be considered. Employees from the bank do spill over onto Mechanic and Pleasant Street, along with employees from CCFHS. Councilor Remillard noted that Portsmouth has 15-minute parking in a loading/unloading zone, which should be sufficient. Councilor Robert Theberge thanked the mayor for bringing up the garbage issue, as some of it spills over onto the sidewalk. Councilor Morency stated they would like to bring as many to the table as they can to find a solution.

So moved, the motion carried.

e. Letter from Alishea Preston requesting Penalty Fee Waiver

At the present moment the city of Berlin has taken my Deceased sisters home for a tax deed. I was unaware that this was happening as I had just payed the tax collectors office 2,000 just a few months ago. I am the fudiciary Of my deceased sisters estate as the deed is currently in her name. I have had Covid 19 for the last few weeks as well as having had a ear sinus and lung infection directly prior to having caught Covid 19. Due to my unforeseen circumstances I was unable to clearly understand the letter that was sent by the city as I had received similar letters in the past. The latter was asking for around 200\$ and I assumed that this was going to be added to the taxes. When I received a notice from the city saying they had taken my sisters estate over the 200\$ I was very confused. I am now in a position to have to pay the entire tax and interest on the estate if I want to repurchase the estate back from the city. I have until December 1 2022 to pay the city taxes of 4,800\$ as I am on disability as well as having Covid currently this is extremely difficult situation. I have also been charged with a 10% penalty fee for the city having taken my deceased sisters estate. I am asking that the 10% penalty fee be waived. I am also asking that the repurchase date be extended due to my disability as well as my current Covid health crisis. I thank you kindly for your consideration in this matter.

Thank you,
Alishea Preston
(603)351-1855

Mayor Grenier noted that any waivers have to come from City Council, not the City Manager or Comptroller. It was noted that the building is not Ms. Preston's primary residence, as she has a Nashua address. Finance Director Holly Larsen advised that Ms. Preston was made aware of the situation when she was appointed as fiduciary, and this has been ongoing for some time. Mayor Grenier strongly recommended not granting the waiver or extension. Councilor Berthiaume asked why the \$2,000 was paid, and Ms. Larsen advised this was for prior liens on the property and that Ms. Preston was made aware this was not enough to keep the property from tax deed. Mayor Grenier advised the amount owed does not include back water and sewer. Ms. Larsen advised that the 10% penalty is because it is non-owner occupied. The property is at 106 Elm Street.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Morency, to deny the hardship request and extension requested by Ms. Preston. So moved, the motion carried.

4. Public Comments

Micah Bachner of 59 High Street read a prepared statement.

"Red, White, & You"

America, like the rest of the world, is in crisis. We face inflation, growing ideological polarization, cultish politician worship, racial unrest, excessive firearms violence, violation of reproductive autonomy, an apathetic citizenry, and a deliberate attack on our nation's democracy encouraged and coordinated by an outgoing president based on a lie that egregiously perverts our constitution, as well as the principles upon which this nation is founded. With midterm elections fast approaching, it is to that last point, of all issues global and domestic, which I must speak.

On January 6th, 2021, I watched in disbelief the news coverage of history being played out in real-time. It reminded me of news coverage on the 11th of September, 2001. Watching our Capital become overrun by the radicalized misinformed, I felt what every American felt as they watched the coverage of 9/11...terror, resentment, and disgust. What's more, I couldn't reconcile that the radicalized misinformed were waving our Nation's Flag. The transformation of our single most unifying symbol into that of hate, division, repression, and anarchy was irrefutable.

The same flag that is draped over the coffins of our fallen can now be found on bumper stickers profanely asserting that one's critique of the country is heavily weighted with one's taking up residence beyond a given border,

or which simply read "Merica." A powerful symbol representing the hopes and democratic ideals of souls the world over has somehow been reduced to a meme, a trope of itself. Where patriotic attire would traditionally only crop up around July 4th, now our flag can be seen on garments with daily regularity.

This is not an argument that patriotism is to be discouraged, rather, this is an assertion that our flag's growing use in commercialization is not patriotism. It is not patriotism when the flag is accompanied by such violent rhetoric as "Stomp on this flag and I'll stomp your ass" or when it is accompanied by skulls, firearms, or claims of being an "Outlaw." A patriotic product would surely read something to the effect of "Liberty and Justice for All," "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness," or "America, we like gays and foreigners!"

It is apparent that those adorning themselves with "We The People" merchandise who fantasize about being the guardians of our Constitution did not read the Declaration of Independence. If they had, they would have read "Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes." Four hours of mob rule does not equate to political legitimacy and this author categorically refutes the notion that an insurrection equates to martyrdom for the sake of our nation. Veterans who find themselves sympathetic to the tyrant's gambit should reflect upon their oath to "support and defend the Constitution," as well as the definition of "all enemies, foreign and domestic."

On October 19th, 2010, I was three years into my enlistment in the U.S. Army. I was in Logar, Afghanistan, drowning in my own blood, eleven months into a twelve-month deployment. I had just entered my vehicle after completing a dismounted patrol, tasked with clearing a route of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) when the vehicle was struck by a Rocket Propelled Grenade (RPG) which detonated directly behind my head. The blast broke my four-point harness, throwing me from my seat and my helmet was shot off when it was penetrated by the warhead of molten copper and steel. I was rendered unconscious; sustaining a traumatic brain injury, a ruptured eardrum, three broken ribs, and extensive shrapnel wounds to my head, neck, and upper back. Of the two largest chunks of shrapnel, which tore diagonally through my left shoulder and into my torso, one came to rest an inch above my heart, and the other blew out my right lung, causing it to collapse and fill with blood. Short of dying, none could sacrifice more for their country. I am heavily invested in the continuance of our democracy and feel adequately qualified to speak so strongly.

To some, red, white, and blue means firmly establishing that "these colors don't run." For my Afghani interpreters who, in our tent, kept me up late with questions about America; those colors likely mean something different. To me, red, white, and blue means that an impoverished kid with no prospects and a GED can grow from food banks/stamps and subsidized housing into a degree-holding entrepreneur. My grandfather, born in Transylvania, immigrated to this country as a boy. An enlistment in the U.S. Air Force helped him establish his identity as an American and introduced him to my grandmother who is also a U.S. Air Force Veteran. I intimately understand that for all people yearning to someday be citizens, red, white, and blue are colors of hope, prosperity, and safety.

Democracy is akin to a road trip with no end point, instead, the scenery between landmarks is the objective. As citizens, we must suggest to other passengers in the vehicle landmarks worth visiting while enjoying the sights en route to destinations we didn't choose. Currently, as a nation, we are pulled off of the road bickering about whether to visit the largest ball of string or the largest rocking chair. We must get back in the car and work together to pick points along a route that provides the best scenery. We cannot remain roadside or let indecision lead us back to the start and we certainly cannot allow election disinformation to slash our tires and fill the gas tank with sugar.

Where have the bumper stickers gone which read "Never forget 9/11" or "United we stand, divided we fall?" I am left wondering where our unity lies after the deadly assault on our Capital; what will be written on new bumper stickers when the dust settles from January 6th? As Americans, weren't we proud to be a mosaic that reflects the global draw of democracy? Weren't we proud to be the destination of the motivated and persecuted? Weren't we proud to lend a hand, even if it meant lending two? We were once proud to be the land of opportunity but now it is clear that some wish it to be a land of opportunity only for themselves.

Some candidates speak of revolution. How many of those speakers know personally the touch of war? Would they be found catching enemy fire on the front lines of their revolution? Any of those speaking voices should temper the stoking of their egos by considering the cost of letting emotions speak in place of reason. My scars ache to think that a person who is contemptuous of our democratic process could be elected into a position of authority that would permit their personal ignorance to manifest as division. Such careless words tread heavily upon our Veterans' sacrifices.

Candidates running for public office pushing lies about election integrity cannot be trusted in a position of authority to act in the good faith of their constituency if that candidate is willing to use their position to suppress the will of their constituency by negating their votes. We must keep in the forefront of our minds that when we surrender to fear and follow its advice; we only create that which we fear. Democracy, like currency, only has a value equal to the belief of its worth. I beg you, in the names of those buried in Arlington National Cemetery, as you head to the voting booth next month, don't take our democracy for granted. We must resume a unified effort to, as the Constitution phrases it, "form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity."

5. Council Comments

Councilor Morency noted that he sees how hard the City and departments work for the citizens, and sees the comments on social media about why grant money was not being used for another purpose. Councilor Morency wanted to stress again that grants are for a specific purpose, and must be used for what they are designated for.

Councilor Remillard thanked Mr. Bachner for what was said in his statement.

6. Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Higbee, seconded by Councilor Berthiaume, the Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 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.