

City Council Work Session
October 3, 2016

Present were: Mayor Grenier, Councilors Otis, Nelson, Remillard, Morgan Allain, Higbee, Rozek (6:40 p.m.) and Theberge. Councilor Gentili was absent.

Others present included: City Manager James Wheeler, Finance Director Patty Chase, City Clerk Elaine Riendeau, Community Development Director Pamela Laflamme, Robert Usherson, Doris Fortier, RN Berlin Health Department, Barbara Tetreault, *Berlin Daily Sun*

Mayor Grenier opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Councilor Otis moved with a second from Councilor Morgan Allain to move the City Manager's Report to 11a on the agenda.

Mayor Grenier also noted that there is a Health Department Discussion on the agenda and he wanted to keep the discussion about hiring an interim clinical supervisor. At next Monday's meeting, there will be a thorough discussion of the findings of the Simone Report and the future of the Health Department.

PD Grants

Mr. Wheeler noted that there are three grants coming up under New Business: Distracted Driver Patrols, Opioid Abuse Reduction and funding for E-Ticket Equipment. Councilor Remillard asked for an explanation of the process for distracted driver patrols and Mr. Wheeler noted that someone from the PD could come to a future meeting.

CDBG Planning Grant for Engineering and Technical Assistance

Councilor Rozek entered the meeting at this time, 6:40 pm. Ms. Laflamme explained that there is \$12,000.00 of Planning Grant money available twice per year for feasibility studies. The City is interested in presenting a project to heat the streets in the downtown. There are transportation funds available through a TIGER grant for innovative capital projects. Heated streets are being done in Holland Michigan and they have been doing this since 1982. Ms. Laflamme stated that she's been working with Cathy Conway and NCIC and the project now needs outside support from engineering and the CDBG feasibility money is a perfect match to see if this is a feasible project.

There are a few ways to heat the streets; one is with Burgess Biomass and the other is to build our own generation plant. The project would be excellent for economic development.

Mr. Wheeler added that the project is technically feasible. Operationally, it would eliminate plowing, and sanding on Main Street and would allow PWD to work in other areas of the City. The district heating is done with high density polyethylene lines which is exactly what the Water Works puts in and it is likely they would be able to install the lines if the project is funded. Burgess Biomass has 75 megawatts and that could heat 10 acres which is enough to go from High Street to Green Square and to heat the parking lots.

Councilor Otis was the first to say that he loves the idea and it should be pursued. Councilor Remillard agreed saying that it could be a model project. Mayor Grenier asked if heating buildings could be tied in and Mr. Wheeler stated that the engineering study may be able to answer those questions. Councilor Higbee noted that there may be enough heat to melt the snow but perhaps not enough to heat a building. He also loves the idea, adding that new sidewalks and new asphalt would likely last longer because there would be no freeze/thaw that occurs during the winter.

Councilor Rozek said that he likes the idea; however the population is small here and he felt it would be a monumental hurdle to get over. Mr. Wheeler stated that we can promote the impact to 30,000 to include the entire County.

Health Department Discussion

Mr. Wheeler explained that there is a retirement at the end of the month and a clinical supervisor is needed regardless of what direction the Health Department goes in. Simone quoted \$160 per hour. Perhaps the work can be done three days per week. Councilor Remillard suggested waiting until next week when the direction of the program is known. Mr. Wheeler confirmed that this will be a part time contracted position.

Councilor Nelson moved to proceed to hire a contracted part time clinical supervisor with the term to be determined next week; Councilor Higbee seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Health Department Position

There was a resignation in the Health Department and we are requesting to fill the full time position. Councilor Nelson moved to fill the vacant position; Councilor Higbee seconded and the motion carried.

Columbus Day

Mayor Grenier said that the Council will meet on the Columbus Day holiday and thoroughly discuss the Health Department. Either way, it will be a big decision. Mayor Grenier asked for census information to be available for the meeting including demographics by age group and income by age group.

Non-Public Session

Councilor Theberge moved with a second from Councilor Higbee to go into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II (d) land matters. So moved, the motion carried unanimously by roll call.

Councilor Rozek moved to come out of non-public session; Councilor Theberge seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call.

Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Councilor Theberge to seal the minutes of the non-public session until the transaction is complete as releasing them would render the proposed action ineffective.

There being no further business in Work Session, Mayor Grenier moved on to the Regular Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Tremblay
Administrative Assistant