

## **City Council Work Session**

### **January 3, 2022**

Present were: Mayor Grenier, Councilors Eastman, Remillard, Higbee, Berthiaume, Theberge, Morgan and Rozek. Councilor Otis was absent.

Others present: Interim City Manager & Community Development Director Pam Laflamme, City Clerk Shelli Fortin, Finance Director Holly Larsen, Deputy Chief Dan Buteau, Peter Morency, Micah Bachner, Amber Bachner, Stuart Light, Lori Korzen, Steven Korzen, Robert Theberge, Spencer Fortier, Ralph Collins, Richard King, Kathy Trumbull, John Trumbull, Andre Bergeron, other members of the public, and William Carroll, Berlin Daily Sun.

Mayor Grenier called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

#### **Net Metering Presentation – Freedom Energy Logistics**

Mr. Jack Martell and Mr. Steve Jorgensen of Freedom Energy Logistics did a presentation on net metering via Zoom as requested by Council during the December 20, 2021 work session. Questions from the Mayor and Council in regards to the net metering was asked and answered by both Freedom Energy Logistics Representatives.

#### **Assessing Items:**

##### **Veteran's Tax Credit Abatement**

Ms. Laflamme advised this item comes from the assessing office. It is a Veteran's tax credit abatement for William Maddalena who moved to 256 Howard Street in the Fall of 2021 and he is applying for the credit to follow him to the new location. Councilor Berthiaume moved to approve of the Veteran's Tax Credit to William Maddalena of 256 Howard Street, Councilor Higbee seconded. So, moved, the motion carried by roll call with majority in favor. Councilors Eastman and Rozek recused themselves.

##### **Special Tax Warrants**

Mayor Grenier advised there are three special tax warrants. First one is for Robert and Debra Goddard of 26 Goddard Hill Road in the amount of \$2,439.31, the second is for M & K Rozek Trustees of 2525 Howard Street in the amount of \$1,871.95 and the third is for T Rozek of 1 Lovett Street in the amount of \$1,659.82. He commented these last three warrants are a result of the BTLA order settlement dispute. Councilor Remillard moved to approve the three special tax warrants, Councilor Morgan seconded. So, moved, the motion carried by roll call with majority in favor. Councilors Eastman and Rozek recused themselves.

##### **PWD Laborer-Equipment Operator Position**

Ms. Laflamme advised the Public Works Department lost a laborer and she is asking for permission to advertise and fill the position. Mayor Grenier asked if this was a retirement or resignation. Ms. Laflamme responded it was a resignation. Councilor Berthiaume moved to allow the Interim City Manager to advertise and fill the PWD Laborer-Equipment Operator position. Councilor Higbee seconded and the motion carried by all in favor.

##### **CDBG Consultant Selection Services**

Ms. Laflamme explained that the Community Development Finance Authority has changed its rules in the last couple years as to how applications are written on behalf of municipalities. She stated in this case, because this is considered a micro purchase and this involves the services of a grant writer, we

need to get it going. The City put out a request to DOT and to a Google group through NH Grant Administrators, both approved by New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority and asked for anyone's interest in doing the writing of the CDBG application on the City's behalf. She commented there is a resolution starting tonight to apply for Community Development Block Grant and the City needs someone to write it. She stated one proposal was received from Donna Kerwin Lane which included a letter of interest along with her resume. This has been the standard fee she charges for grant writing for the last 20 years which is a very reasonable cost. Councilor Remillard moved to approve the CDBG housing application writing to Donna Kerwin Lane as special CDBG Consultant and grant writer as part of the selection process, Councilor Morgan seconded and the motion carried by all in favor.

Mayor Grenier requested to add three items to the regular meeting's agenda. A communication from Tiffany Hale in regards to the zoning public hearing, a communication from David Morin of Whittemore Ave. for the proposed changes to the zoning ordinance and a communication from Theodore Bosen under the Mayor's report. Councilor Remillard moved to add the communications of the three citizens in their respective places, Councilor Morgan seconded and the motion carried by all in favor.

At 7:19pm, there being no further business in Work Session, Mayor Grenier recessed before moving on to the Regular Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Danielle Rioux  
Executive Assistant

\*Minutes are unofficial until they have been accepted by the City Council by motion.