

City Council Work Session
May 23, 2022

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

Others present: City Manager Phillip L. Warren Jr., Community Development Director Pamela Laflamme, Chief of Police Dan Buteau, Micah Bachner, Amber Bachner and William Carroll, Berlin Daily Sun.

Mayor Grenier opened the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

Timber Tax Warrants

Mr. Warren presented to Council two timber tax warrants. The first one for Paul Ouellette is for timber cut at Map & Lot 139-2 in the amount of \$455.19. The second one for Shadow Ridge, LLC is for timber cut at Map & Lot 126-1 in the amount of \$27.25. Councilor Berthiaume moved to approve the two timber tax warrants as presented. Councilor Remillard seconded and the motion carried by all in favor.

Abatement Recommendations

Mr. Warren presented abatement recommendations received from George E. Sansoucy, PE, LLC. They are recommending denying the abatement requests from Eversource, Central Rivers Power and Great Lake Hydro America as they have not provided any supportive documentation justifying the request for value reduction. Councilor Remillard moved to deny the abatement requests from Eversource, Central Rivers Power and Great Lake Hydro America. Councilor Berthiaume seconded and the motion carried by all in favor.

Mr. Warren presented an abatement recommendation received from George E. Sansoucy, PE, LLC. They are recommending granting the abatement to Paul Ramsey Cell Tower from \$218,560 to \$150,560. This reflects a reduction in the tower site value from \$200,000 to \$132,000 with no change to the City's current use value of \$18,560 on the remainder of the parcels land. Councilor Berthiaume moved to grant the abatement to Paul Ramsey Cell Tower. Councilor Higbee seconded and the motion carried by all in favor.

OHRV Ordinance Discussion

Councilor Remillard advised this was discussed at the Traffic Safety Committee meeting held this evening. They reviewed the OHRV Ordinance and they will be recommending to Council amending OHRV Ordinance 2017-03 by adding language to item number 4. The added language will allow individuals to request to Council to open or close streets during events. The first read of the amended Ordinance will at the next regular Council meeting of June 6, 2022.

Other

Mayor Grenier presented a communication received from Kurt Melanson, the JAG Specialist at the Berlin High School. He is requesting support for some of his JAG students to paint a mural. The area he would like to have them paint is the cement wall on Emery Street which has been vandalized. Councilor Remillard moved to approve the JAG program students painting a mural on the Willow/Emery Street walls subject to final approval of the City Council. Councilor Higbee seconded and the motion carried by all in favor. Councilor Higbee commented he likes the idea of allowing the students to chose the subject. Mayor Grenier suggested inviting Mr. Melanson to the next Council meeting to present the students' ideas. Council agreed.

At 6:48 p.m., Councilor Roland Theberge moved with a second from Councilor Higbee to enter into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 II; (d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community. So, moved, the motion carried by roll call with all in favor.

The acquisition and sale of property was discussed.

At 7:11p.m., Mayor, Council and Staff came out of Non-Public Session. Councilor Remillard moved to seal the minutes of the non-public session until the acquisition and sale matters have been resolved; Councilor Higbee seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Councilor Higbee moved to adjourn; Councilor Morgan seconded and the motion carried by all in favor. The meeting ended at 7:12p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Danielle Rioux
Executive Assistant

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