

City Council Work Session July 5, 2022

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

Others present: City Manager Phillip L. Warren Jr., Community Development Director Pamela Laflamme, Finance Director Holly Larsen, City Clerk Shelli Fortin, Phil Bryce, Steven Korzen, Lori Korzen, Jan Zicha, Paul Robitaille, Berlin Daily Sun.

Mayor Grenier opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. He advised a Non-Meeting is added to the work session agenda.

Jericho Park Plans Presentation

Mr. Phil Bryce, Director for the State of NH - Division of Parks and Recreation presented the preferred campground expansion concept for the Jericho Mountain State Park. The plans include but are not limited to; adding 20+/- new premium campsites with full hook-ups for RVs, a new septic system, shelters, standard campsites, a dump station and bring electricity to camping cabins and selected campsites. He advised the current budget is estimated at \$3.5 million for this project. The next steps are to complete a feasibility study, contract for phase 2 with consulting designer and submit to G&C in September 2022 and funding has to be obligated by 2024 and projects completed by 2026. Mayor Grenier thanked Mr. Bryce for the presentation, it was much appreciated.

Sewer Abatements

Mr. Warren presented to the Sewer User Charge Appeal Committee which is the Council, five sewer abatement requests received along with back up documentation including sewer and water billing history. He questioned if the committee wanted to review, offer recommendations and have the citizens attend a Council meeting to discuss their requests. Councilor Higbee stated the sewer abatement request form is where the citizen would describe in detail their request along with back up and it's not past practice to have the citizens discuss their request at a Council meeting.

Councilor Higbee moved to deny sewer abatement requests from Mark Lauze – 52 Twelfth Street, Jeffrey Morgan Allain – 120 Laurel Street and Maurice Poulin – 163 Ruby Street. Councilor Remillard seconded and the motion carried by majority in favor with one abstention from Councilor Morgan.

Councilor Remillard moved to approve a one-time abatement to RM and Associates – 823 Main Street to an amount billed of \$300. Councilor Higbee seconded and the motion carried by all in favor.

Councilor Remillard moved to approve a one-time abatement to Deborah Laflamme – 128 Jasper Street to an amount billed of \$500. Councilor Higbee seconded and the motion carried by all in favor.

Notice to Municipalities – D&S Entertainment dba Berlin Bowl

Mayor Grenier read the letter from the State of NH Liquor Commission stating D&S Entertainment LLC dba Berlin Bowl has made an application for a Sports Recreation Facility on premises Cocktail Lounge liquor license for the establishment located at 283 Main St. Councilor Remillard moved to send a communication to the NH Liquor Commissioner on behalf of the City Council supporting the application as presented; Councilor Morgan seconded and the motion carried with all in favor.

Non-Meeting

Councilor Higbee moved to go into non-meeting per RSA 91-A :2 I. (b) Collective Bargaining; Councilor Morency seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call.

At 7:24 p.m., Mayor, Council and Staff came out of Non-Meeting.

Councilor Morgan moved to add an agenda item to the regular Council meeting for Ratification of Labor Agreement under new business. Councilor Roland Theberge seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call.

At 7:26 p.m., 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.