

**City Council Work Session**  
**May 15, 2023**

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

Others present: City Manager Phillip L. Warren Jr., Dir. Of Strat. Initiatives and Asst. City Mgr. Pamela Laflamme, Finance Director Holly Larsen, City Clerk Shelli Fortin, SAU3 Business Manager Marion Moore, Lori Korzen and Lisa Connell, Berlin Daily Sun.

Mayor Grenier opened up the meeting at 6:34p.m.

**Abatement Recommendations**

Mr. Warren discussed the following abatement recommendations received from Ms. Monica Hurley of Corcoran Consulting Associates;

673 Third Avenue (Map 110 Lot 9), Ms. Hurley recommends approving the abatement application for the 2022 tax year and reduce the assessment from \$138,000 to \$119,900.

Map 105 Lot 11, Map 105 Lot 14, Map 107 Lot 3, Ms. Hurley recommends abating the properties for tax years 2020, 2021 and 2022 as the properties were turned over to the City of Berlin in 2022.

Councilor Remillard moved to approve the property abatements as recommended by Corcoran Consulting Associates. Councilor Robert Theberge seconded and the motion carried by majority in favor with one recusal from Councilor Eastman.

**Grant Resolutions**

Ms. Laflamme discussed the grant resolutions that will be first read during regular meeting this evening. The resolutions are for authorization to apply for the following grants;

- CDBG Boys and Girls Clubs of NH in an amount of up to \$500,000.
- NH Business & Economic Affairs for the demo of seven city owned buildings in an amount totaling \$500,000.
- NH Housing InvestNH Housing Opportunity Program in the amount of \$131,500 related to technical support for activities related to land use ordinances and regulations related to housing.
- NH Community Development Finance Authority for an amount up to \$1,000,000 for the repair and rehabilitation of the Berlin Public Library.
- NHDOT/Highway Infrastructure Program for the second phase of work for the Mason Street Bridge rehabilitation in the amount of \$600,000.

Ms. Laflamme commented resolution 2023-23 is for authorizing the waiver of the City's purchasing and procurement requirements as defined in Section 2-428 Professional Services. This waiver will allow the City to work with the Preservation Company who already did a lot of work and research that can be applied to the NH BEA project without having to bring a new consultant in to start this work anew. This will save time, effort, and funding that can go into the exhibit itself.

Ms. Moore commented resolution 2023-24 is to reallocate capital improvement funds. The Berlin Public Schools received a grant to fund the improvement of the Berlin Elementary School restroom and no longer needs capital funds for the upgrade. The Berlin Middle High School restrooms require an upgrade and they are requesting to reallocate the funds for the BMHS restrooms upgrade.

Councilor Eastman questioned if there is any funding available for the Route 110 Project. Ms. Laflamme advised this project did not qualify for the congregationally directed spending, but might qualify for Economic Development Administration funding. Mayor Grenier discussed funding mechanisms for this project.

**Budget Hearing Notice**

Mr. Warren advised the Public Hearing notice presented for the FY2024 proposed budget will be advertised this week. The Public Hearing is scheduled for May 30, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. and will be held in the City Hall Auditorium.

At 6:48 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.