

City Council Work Session
June 25, 2018

Present were: Mayor Grenier, Councilors Otis, Rozek, Theberge, Remillard, Higbee; Councilors Gentili, Morgan Allain and Berthiaume were absent.

Others present: City Manager Jim Wheeler, Police Chief Peter Morency, Deputy Police Chief Dan Buteau and Barbara Tetreault *Berlin Daily Sun*.

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

St. Anne Historic District

The Council reviewed a letter received from the NH Division of Historical Resources with regard to the creation of a historic district for St. Anne's. The district will include the church, hall and St. Regis. The creation of the district has no effect on the City itself. There are no city utilities on the right-of-way between the church and St. Regis. There has been a substantial amount of work completed on St. Regis, and at this time, there is more planned. It was agreed that there is no reason to disagree with the creation of a St. Anne Historic District.

Snowmelt Infrastructure Feasibility Study Recommendation

Mr. Wheeler stated that five consultants submitted their qualifications for the snowmelt feasibility study. Of the five firms, two were picked to participate in the interview process; Wilson Engineering Services, PC and GMB Architecture & Engineering. Both firms exhibited excellent qualifications and interest in the project. Dammon Frecker of Burgess BioMass also partook in the interviewing process. While it is not definite, Cate Street, as partner in this project, may bring forth additional monies for the study. Currently, there is \$40,000 available for the study. After reviewing the interview process, Wilson Engineering Services, PC, was chosen as the best candidate for the project.

Based on their construction history, Councilor Rozek asked why GMB was not chosen. Mr. Wheeler stated that they have been more involved with the actual construction. Whereas Wilson Engineering has been more involved with the feasibility aspect of these types of projects. An economic analysis is also included in the study.

Councilor Higbee asked if the study will include research on producing our own steam power, and Councilor Rozek asked if it will include research on district heating. Mr. Wheeler stated that both of these items are included the project's criteria.

Councilor Rozek moved, with a second from Councilor Remillard, to hire Wilson Engineering Services, PC, for their services in the feasibility study of the downtown snowmelt system. So moved, the motion carried.

Other – Opioid Funding

Chief Morency stated that this year there is \$1.2 million dollars of grant monies available for enforcement in the opioid crisis. As in the past, Chief Morency applied again this year for the North Country grant, which encompasses Coos County. However, he has been asked to include Littleton to the

communities under the grant. As a result, the grants total amount of \$30,000 includes an additional amount of \$10,000.

Councilor Rozek said that NH is the number one state in the opioid epidemic and Berlin is one of the highest communities within the state. He asked why we do not receive more monies to assist with the fight. Chief Morency stated that there are a lot of overlapping funds down south. However, during the last operation, approximately 90 people were involved per day for two days. The expense equates to approximately \$100 per person per day. The drugs are not being sold on the street, but rather through known contacts. This operation helped educate the right people to understand that it is different up here versus down south. Also Chief Morency stated that the 22-23 million dollars that is being infused into the state will not be given to any new facilities, but will only go to the facilities that are currently out there.

Chief Morency stated that he will be asking the Council to push through this resolution in one evening.

At approximately 5:54 pm, Councilor Theberge moved with a second from Councilor Remillard to move into Non-Meeting pursuant to RSA 91-A: 2, I. (b) collective bargaining. Roll call resulted all in the affirmative, motion carried.

After the non-meeting ended at approximately 7:35 pm, Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Councilor Remillard to move into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 II (d), (e), (I). Roll call resulted all in the affirmative, the motion carried.

As a result of the discussion during the Non-Public Session, Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Councilor Higbee to authorize the City Manager to put a lot of land located on Hillsboro Street, Map 117, Lot 3 out to bid with a minimum asking price of \$5,000, until rescinded. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Councilor Remillard to move back into Non-Public Session. Roll call resulted all in the affirmative, motion carried.

As a result of the final matter during Non-Public Session, Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Councilor Remillard to deny the payment schedule offer by Andre Martel, former owner, of 25 Green Square. Roll call resulted all in the affirmative, the motion carried.

Adjourn

There being no further business, Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Councilor Theberge to adjourn. So moved, the motion carried. The meeting ended at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elaine Riendeau
City Clerk

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