

City Council Work Session

October 24, 2016

Present were: Mayor Grenier, Councilors Otis, Nelson, Morgan Allain, Higbee, Gentili, Rozek and Theberge. Councilor Remillard was absent.

Others present included: City Manager James Wheeler, Public Works Director Michael Perreault, Barbara Tetreault, *Berlin Daily Sun*

Mayor Grenier opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. He asked to add a non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 (d) land matters. Councilor Rozek so moved; Councilor Morgan Allain seconded and the motion carried.

Mayor Grenier announced that the first item on the agenda regarding a Hockey Town USA banner was removed.

Snow Policy

Mike Perreault reported on the recommended changes proposed for the Snow and Ice Policy.

- A snow dump was added behind the new courthouse where the City owns property along the river.
- Salt and sand comparisons will be updated. Mr. Perreault stated that Pike is providing sand at \$6 to \$7 and Morton out of NY is providing salt. They deliver to the Stark shed and the City crews pick it up there.
- On page 22, a modification of plow route W1B is needed to accommodate the changes to Route 110 including modifications to First and Second Avenues.
- Changes to sidewalks to be plowed in District 1 (page 42) include Mannering Street by plowing only the south side instead of both sides and Second Avenue, plowing Mannering to Harding rather than both sides
- Changes to sidewalks to be plowed in (District 2) (page 43) include Blanchard Street by plowing only one side rather than both sides.
- Changes to sidewalks to be plowed (District 4) (page 46) include plowing Hutchins Street from Cleveland Bridge to Columbia Street and Napert Street to Page Hill Road
- The winter work force (page 60) will show the reduced number of available employees from 27 to 26.
- The list of Snow Removal Equipment (pages 64-66) has been updated to remove a Salt Truck totaled in a roll over last year; 2 loaders were removed from the inventory and a 2012 Freightliner ten-wheeled dump truck fitted with a spreader is added to the fleet

Councilor Rozek confirmed that PWD will start plowing when snowfall reaches 3-5 inches. The priorities are the downtown first, then schools, then truck Routes including Route 16, Hutchins Street, and Route 110; arterials, collector streets are next. Mr. Perreault indicated that it takes 4 to 6 hours to do a plow

route. Councilor Theberge questioned the area around the Jr. High. Mr. Perreault said that school priority goes up if there are two contiguous storms where schools would be plowed before the downtown.

Mayor Grenier asked to have a hard copy with the changes in place. Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Councilor Nelson to approve the recommended changes to the snow policy. So moved, the motion carried.

Non-Meeting per RSA 91-A:2 (b) Collective Bargaining

Councilor Morgan Allain moved to go into non meeting per RSA 91-A:2 (b); Councilor Otis seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call. The public meeting resumed.

Housing Update

Mr. Wheeler reported that the Neighborhood Stabilization Program grant has one resident participant whose circumstances led to extending the grant. Linda White agreed to stay on one day per week until the grant is complete. The contractor is working on the property now.

The City has a portfolio of properties slated for demolition and there is not enough money to complete all the work. Linda will develop a contract to spend down the money we do have. Mr. Wheeler said that he would fill in as needed when attention is needed on the contract work. Once the properties are down, the land will be put out for sale. In the spring, we will get back in to tax deeded properties. If Linda does work beyond the grant, it would be on a contracted basis.

Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 (d) Land Matters

Councilor Higbee moved with a second from Council Theberge to go into non- public session per RSA 91-A:3(d) Land Matters. So motion, the motion carried unanimously by roll call.

Councilor Rozek moved to come out of non-public session; Councilor Nelson seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call

Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Councilor Higbee to seal the minutes as releasing them would render the proposed action ineffective. So moved, the motion carried unanimously by roll call.

Other - Tax Rate

Mr. Wheeler noted that the DRA will send the tax rate mid-week. Utility values went up and that had an effect on the County tax. About \$90,000 of additional UFB will be needed to keep a zero tax increase; however the UFB is at \$2 million as reported in the most recent audit.

There being no further business, Councilor Rozek moved to adjourn; Councilor Nelson seconded and the motion carried. The meeting ended at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Tremblay
Administrative Assistant