

City Council Work Session
January 14, 2019

Present were: Mayor Grenier, Councilors Theberge, Higbee (6:35) Gentili, Rozek, Otis, Morgan Allain, and Remillard; Councilor Berthiaume was absent

Others present: City Manager Jim Wheeler, City Clerk Shelli Fortin, Community Development Director Pamela Laflamme, Claire Stiles, School Superintendent Corinne Cascadden, City Engineer Eric Grenier, Police Chief Pete Morency, Assistant Chief Dan Buteau, Representative Henry Noel, Mike Fortier from Work Ready NH, Barbara Tetreault, *Berlin Daily Sun*

Mayor Grenier opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Wheeler asked to add HB 352 to the agenda under "Other". Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Councilor Otis to add the item. So moved, the motion carried.

Work Ready NH

Mayor Grenier introduced Mr. Fortier and congratulated him on his new position. Mr. Fortier explained that Work Ready NH will help potential employees build skills and confidence. They will work with soft skills and hard skills such as math, reading and graphic literacy. Soft skills include personal branding, communicating, showing up every day on time, making eye contact, and keeping the cell phone out of the picture. Students will learn to refresh their resume, and to identify and relate personal strengths.

This program will build confidence in 3 weeks and if successful, the student will leave the program with certification that they are work ready. The hard skills are done on line and will assure that the worker is proficient in math, reading and graphic literacy. The program may identify career possibilities. Everyone is eligible, whether they are unemployed or underemployed. During the 3 weeks, students will be networking with class members; they will do mock interviews in front of employers and create a business model. The program is tied in with NH works.

Work Ready is a grant funded program. Mr. Fortier stated that he has approval to work in the County jails. The Berlin program will start March 11 and there are programs in other communities that begin at different times.

Mayor Grenier asked if a referral is needed to get into the program. Mr. Fortier replied that inquiries are filtered to him and no eligible student will be denied. Mayor Grenier asked if the program will be court ordered in special circumstances. Mr. Fortier noted that has not happened yet; however if someone wants to make a change in their life, it would be a good program. Students can miss a maximum of six hours and if they are late, they will not meet the standards to be certified "Work Ready". Mayor Grenier stated that a lot of people have never worked in a structured environment. Some need to be taught what is presentable, and they need a push to see that there is something out there for them. Mr. Fortier asked Council members for referrals to the program.

Notice to Municipalities

Mr. Wheeler explained that we received a letter from the State Liquor Commission informing of an application for a liquor license. They are required to notify municipalities, giving the community an

opportunity to flag a problem. In this case, it is the transfer of an existing license for Ron's Variety. Councilor Rozek moved to support the application for a combination license for Ron's Variety; Councilor Higbee seconded and the motion carried.

Proposed Budget Schedule

Councilor Rozek moved to accept the schedule as presented; Councilor Theberge seconded and the motion carried. Mayor Grenier mentioned that we may not have all the information on school funding at the public hearing; however the State budget should be passed or vetoed before we pass the budget.

HB 352

Mr. Wheeler distributed a letter of support that he would like to send to the House Finance committee regarding funding for waste water projects. The City has a \$155,000 project that could be reimbursed. Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Councilor Otis to send a letter of support for HB352 to the House Finance Committee. So moved, the motion carried.

HB177

Mayor Grenier informed the Council that HB 177 is an education bill that withdraws the reductions of education funding to the city. He said that he will testify in support of the bill. Councilor Rozek gave the Mayor kudos for bringing the city's business to Concord. It often goes unnoticed, but it is critical to the welfare of the community.

Non-Public Session

Councilor Higbee moved with a second from Councilor Morgan Allain to go into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II (d) land matters and RSA 91-A:3 II (e) pending claims. The motion carried unanimously by roll call. Chief Morency, Assistant Chief Buteau, Eric Grenier, and Pamela Laflamme stayed for the Land Matters.

Mr. Wheeler reported that the AVH land issue is ready to be completed. There were no objections and the Council will vote to go forward with the limited use agreement and deed in public session. Mr. Eric Grenier and Ms. Laflamme left the meeting at this time.

Chief Morency & Assistant Chief Buteau updated the Council on a pending claim. Chief Morency and Assistant Chief Buteau left the meeting at this time.

Mr. Wheeler reported on a pending claim.

Councilor Higbee moved to come out of non-public session; Councilor Morgan Allain seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Councilor Morgan Allain to seal the minutes until the City Manager and Mayor determine they can be released as releasing them would make the action taken ineffective. So moved, the motion carried.

AVH/City Limited Use Agreement

Councilor Rozek moved to authorize the limited use agreement and to reconfirm the deed provided for the donation of land from AVH to the City; Councilor Higbee seconded and the motion carried.

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

Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Councilor Remillard to come out of non-meeting. So moved, the motion carried unanimously by roll call.

Councilor Rozek moved to adjourn; Councilor Morgan Allain seconded and the motion carried. The meeting ended at 8:02

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Tremblay
Administrative Assistant

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