

City Council Work Session

June 19, 2017

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

Others present: City Manager Jim Wheeler, Finance Director Patty Chase, Community Development Director Pamela Laflamme, Public Works Director Michael Perreault, School Superintendent Corinne Cascadden, School Business Administrator Bryan Lamirande, Jay Poulin, HEB Engineers, several Berlin firefighters, School Board Chair Nicole Plourde, Barbara Tetreault *Berlin Daily Sun*

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

Route 16 Update

Mr. Poulin reported that the majority of work completed on the Route 16 project has had to do with drainage. The Brown School phase of the project will be starting soon with a goal of completion to base pavement by August 25. Preparation for concrete sidewalk construction is underway between St. Anne's Church to Maple Street. The overhead utilities are complete to Twelfth Street; all old poles have been removed and LED street lights are in place. Base paving from Eighth to Twelfth is scheduled for next week. New curbing will be installed July 5 to 7 between 8th and Twelfth Street and the intersection improvement work for 12th Street is scheduled for July. The wearing course is scheduled for September.

Mr. Poulin stated that part of the project is to plan for the Riverwalk and make sure it could be fit in and that nothing is done to the road that will interfere with the Riverwalk. Councilor Rozek asked if the parking for teachers will be affected and Mr. Poulin assured him that it will be constructed as planned. Councilor Nelson confirmed that there would be no bump outs in the area of Eleventh and Twelfth Streets. Councilor Rozek confirmed that the effluent ponds were removed from the project.

Mr. Poulin noted that the contractor, Sargent Corp, has done a good job and they are not difficult to deal with. The project is also on budget. He indicated that he would come back in four weeks with another update.

Sewer Abatement Committee

Two requests for abatement were before the Sewer Abatement Committee.

1. Carol Lacroix for a property at 263 Coos Street. In her application, Ms. Lacroix claims that there was a leaking toilet and that there was a problem with the water meter resulting in a high consumption. Mr. Perreault noted that he went to the Water Works and they would neither confirm nor deny the problem with the meter as claimed; however they did not make an adjustment to the water usage. Mayor Grenier noted that he would like to know if there was a meter issue. Did BWW work on the meter? Councilor Rozek agreed adding that the Committee cannot make a decision without knowing all the facts.
2. Claire Aubut for a property at 134 Monty Road. In her application, Ms. Aubut states that there was a leaking toilet and she is asking for an adjustment to her bill.

Councilor Nelson moved to table the abatement request for #1, Lacroix and deny #2, Aubut; Councilor Rozek seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Budget

Mr. Wheeler indicated that he was asked for another \$100,000 for the budget and he came up with \$30,000 of additional revenue and \$70,000 of cuts to expenses for an overall reduction of \$100,000. Proposed changes are as follows:

Account #	Description	+/-	New Total
01-330	Motor Vehicle Permits	+\$30,000	\$1,230,000.

Account #	Description	+/-	New Total
01-402	Administration	-\$2500	\$1,032,253.
01-403	City Hall & Other Bldgs	-\$5,000 +\$1,441	\$51,240.
01-412	Outside Agencies	+\$2,000	\$69,397
01-420	Police Dept	-\$15,880	\$3,203,000
01-421	Fire Dept	-\$39,000	\$2,180,658
01-460	School Budget	-\$10,920	\$18,143,437

With the changes, a tax increase of .52 cents is projected; a tax rate of \$39.71.

House Bill 140

Councilor Otis reported that HB 140 has been through House and Senate and it is now on the Governor's desk for signature. The bill would allow a small winery to distribute their product outside of the three tier system that all manufactures have to adhere to. The bill would open the door to bypass the wholesaler network and could have an effect on local jobs. He asked the Council for a letter of support asking the Governor to veto of HB140. Councilor Higbee noted that he read the bill and it seems to allow one wine producer to have one outlet to sell to the public. Mayor Grenier agreed that it breaks the lock. Councilor Rozek moved send a letter to the Governor to express the City's opposition to the implementation of HB 140; Councilor Nelson seconded and the motion carried.

Non-Public Session

Councilor Higbee moved with a second from Councilor Remillard to go into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3II (d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community. So moved, the motion carried unanimously by roll call.

Mr. Wheeler discussed a request to purchase property and complications that may arise. More research will be done.

On a separate land matter, a right to first refusal was discussed.

Councilor Higbee moved to come out of non-public session for land matters; Councilor Nelson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Non-Meeting

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

Councilor Higbee moved with a second from Councilor Nelson to come out of non-meeting. So moved, the motion carried.

Non-Public Session

Councilor Nelson moved with a second from Councilor Remillard to go into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II (a) The dismissal, promotion or compensation of any public employee. So moved, the motion carried unanimously by roll call.

There was discussion regarding the Assistant Fire Chief's position which included a consultation with legal counsel and a discussion of options available to the City Council regarding the future funding of the position.

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

There being no further business in Work Session, Mayor Grenier moved on to the Regular Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Tremblay
Administrative Assistant