

City Council Work Session

January 2, 2018

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

Others present: City Manager Jim Wheeler, City Clerk Elaine Riendeau, Public Works Director Mike Perreault, Barbara Tetreault *Berlin Daily Sun*.

Mayor Grenier opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Skate Park Design Build

Mr. Wheeler indicated that there were four respondents for the design build Skate Park. The goal is to choose the best team for us and that ended up being Spohn Ranch out of Los Angeles, CA. Design build contracts come to the Council for approval and we are asking for a vote to authorize awarding the project to Spohn Ranch. Mayor Grenier asked if Spohn Ranch is aware of the funding available. Mr. Wheeler noted that they knew the budget and they know the dimensions of the site. They also know there is an allocation of PWD work as in kind. Councilor Rozek asked if they are prepared for the cold. Mr. Wheeler noted that they will have to use NH license professionals and they have done work in New England. Councilor Higbee moved to approve Spohn Ranch to design build a skate park; Councilor Rozek seconded and the motion carried.

Snow Removal Update

Mayor Grenier reported that he asked for this item to be on the agenda to hear questions or comments on the first significant snowfall. Mr. Perreault distributed information on the snow removal operations that have occurred so far. This evening, the crew will be doing the upper section of Route 16 from St. Anne's Church to 12th Street. Councilor Rozek stated that traffic is going over the yellow line by 11th Street because of the snow accumulation. Snow is being plowed onto the bumpouts and when cars pull out of the street, snow banks are so high, cars cannot be seen. Mr. Perreault noted that PWD has to deal with those who are putting all their snow on the bumpouts. PWD will bring in a loader and dump trucks to clean out. Mayor Grenier stated that it is a work in progress and the crew should be allowed to develop a "standard operating procedure" to clean those areas. Councilor Higbee commented that whatever is developed may have to be changed once the Riverwalk is in place.

Mr. Perreault explained the PWD tries to split the wards so that all get some snow removal. He showed the overtime in December. The department has used 42% of the salt budget and sand is not far behind. In the frigid temperatures, salt does not work well so we are using sand.

This has been one of the coldest and snowiest winters in several years. The winter overtime budget is 59% spent. Mayor Grenier asked if this includes the flooding that occurred in November and Mr. Perreault confirmed that it does not. Mayor Grenier noted that employees performed remarkably well. Mr. Perreault said that the work order system is working well and there is a better understanding that citizens' problems are being addressed.

Councilor Otis asked if upper Main Street will receive a higher priority adding that businesses are complaining that snow has not been removed. Mr. Perreault noted that he is following the priority the

Council set. Councilor Rozek asked about snow that is left in the travel lane after snow removal. Mr. Perreault said that a smaller plow will be added to the operations to get at that a little better. Councilor Morgan Allain asked if there are problems with the plows hitting the bumpouts. Mr. Perreault noted that there will be a learning curve and several techniques will be used to do a good plowing job.

Proposed Budget Schedule

Mr. Wheeler reported that the budget schedule can be revised if necessary. Department heads have seen it and had no conflicts. Mayor Grenier stated this is a responsible schedule. There were no objections.

Other

Councilor Higbee moved to go into Non Meeting per RSA 91-A:2 I (b) Collective Bargaining; Councilor Morgan Allain seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call.

Councilor Remillard moved to come out of non-meeting; Councilor Rozek seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call.

With no further business in work session, Mayor Grenier moved on to the regular meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Tremblay
Administrative Assistant

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