

**City Council Work Session**  
**April 16, 2018**

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

Others present: City Manager Jim Wheeler, City Clerk Elaine Riendeau, Community Development Director Pamela Laflamme, Public Works Director Michael Perreault, Barbara Tetreault *Berlin Daily Sun*.

Mayor Grenier opened the meeting at 6:29 p.m.

**Sewer Rate**

Mr. Wheeler stated that flows are down including those in District 2 where the prisons are. The Sewer Fund has a healthy fund balance and the recommendation is a slight 2% increase which would bring the sewer rate from \$8.04 to \$8.21. The FY 2017 audit lists the existing fund balance of the sewer fund at \$5.5 million. Reducing the fund each year by \$850,000 will bring it down to \$2.2 million in 2020.

Mayor Grenier suggested an increase to \$8.10. Councilor Rozek described the treatment plant's delicate process and emphasized that it is critical to maintain proper treatment. The equipment at the plant is well maintained; however when there is a problem, it is expensive to fix. He voiced that it is not a stiff price to pay because of the critical service it provides. Mayor Grenier confirmed that the increase would still keep Berlin's sewer rate at under the State average. Councilor Remillard asked what the rate would be if no ufb was used to temper the rate. Mr. Wheeler estimated that it would be about \$12.00 per 100 cubic feet. Mayor Grenier stated that the 2% increase would add about \$11.00 per bill.

Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Remillard to increase the City's sewer rate by 2% to \$8.21 per 100 cubic feet. So moved, the motion carried.

Mr. Wheeler noted that the FY19 flows were projected into next year and the capital improvement expenses would bring the rate to \$8.90 which would be an increase of 8%. Councilors indicated that the capital should be reviewed to as part of the budget.

**Recommendation for Hillside Avenue Bridge Project**

Mr. Wheeler reported that the Hillside Avenue Bridge Resolution will give a clear indication of where the money is coming from. DOT has approved awarding the bid to Ray's Electric & General Contractors, Inc. at \$624,115.54. Once the City issues the notice to proceed, the State will cut us a check for 50% of the 80% they will fund.

Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Councilor Nelson to approve the bid award to Rays Electric for \$624,115.54. So moved, the motion carried.

**Engineering Services - Elevator for City Hall**

Ms. Laflamme reported that the City received proposals from two firms in response to an rfp for a city hall elevator or upgrade to the existing chairlift, Alba Architects LLP and Robert E. Doyle PE. Both are well qualified and both were interviewed. Mr. Doyle has more experience with old buildings and it was

the recommendation of the Committee to go with him. Ms. Laflamme confirmed that the study will look at the best option for locating an elevator in City Hall. There could be grant money available for such a project and the study is the first step.

Councilor Remillard moved with a second from Councilor Rozek to authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract and hire Robert E. Doyle, PE to do the City Hall Engineering Services feasibility project for a sum not to exceed \$11,500.00, funded by a planning grant from CDFA. So moved, the motion carried.

#### **Dead River Park Resolution**

Mr. Wheeler noted that the Rotary Club is making a donation of fencing and material to repair benches to the city amounting to \$565.00.

#### **Other**

AVH Road Race - Mr. Wheeler stated that AVH does a road race every year and they sent their proposed route. The race will occur Saturday, May 5 at 10:00 a.m. Councilor Gentili moved to approve the race course as presented for May 5; Councilor Morgan Allain seconded and all voted in favor.

#### **Non-Public Session**

Councilor Theberge moved with a second from Councilor Morgan Allain to go into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II(d) land matters; so moved, the motion carried unanimously by roll call.

Mr. Wheeler noted that the condition of 88 Wight Street may be worse than originally thought. He asked if the property motion from last week could be amended to include demolition. Councilor Remillard moved to amend the motion of April 9 with regard to 88 Wight Street to include demolition if the property does not sell; Councilor Rozek seconded and the motion carried.

Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Councilor Theberge to come out of non-public session at 7:15. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved to seal the Union Street discussion until the transaction is complete as releasing them would render the action ineffective; Councilor Rozek seconded and the motion carried.

#### **Senate Bill 193**

Mayor Grenier stated that SB193 is coming up at the Legislature tomorrow. He noted that there is no accountability for home schooling students.

There being no further business in Work Session, Mayor Grenier moved on to the regular meeting after a five minute break.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Susan Tremblay  
Administrative Assistant

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