

City Council Work Session
June 4, 2018

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

Others present: City Manager Jim Wheeler, City Clerk Elaine Riendeau, Community Development Director Pamela Laflamme, Fire Chief John Lacasse, Family Resource Center Assistant Program Director Naomi Levesque, Students: Alina Chilafoe, Katrina Pineo, Alexis Redding, Ellen Law, and Jayse Law, parents, Barbara Tetreault *Berlin Daily Sun* and public.

Mayor Grenier opened the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

Photovoice & UMap Project

Naomi Levesque from the Youth Afterschool Program explained that a group of middle school students have been working on a project using pictures to make the story. They also mapped their work on paper maps and transferred to Google Maps. Their project is a report on places for recreation and leisure, transportation to get to the recreation areas and unsafe places.

Students Alina Chilafoe, Katrina Pineo, Alexis Redding, Ellen Law, and Jayse Law presented a Power Point that showed good places to recreate, some unsafe areas and they presented ideas for new recreational activity. Students thought that splash pads, safety surfacing and water fountains to refill water bottles would be great additions.

Mayor Grenier stated that the project is very thorough. In response to a question from an audience member, it was noted that water fountains; splash pads and public safety items would be in the top three to get done.

Cindy Heath added that this has been a yearlong project. She is happy to work on a project in her home state. The next step is to write a report and the Foundation for Healthy Communities has funding that may be able to help with funding some of the recommendations. Mayor Grenier thanked the group and they left the meeting at this time.

Mayor Grenier asked to add Collective Bargaining to the meeting agenda. Councilor Rozek so moved; Councilor Higbee seconded and the motion carried.

Hutchins Street/Bridge Street Intersection Paving

Mr. Wheeler reported that Sargent was asked to price paving Hutchins Street through a change order with premium asphalt. To fund this project, the Mason Street project will be pulled and we will add the project to the State Bridge Program. There will be \$187,150 for other projects and with that money we can do the work on Hutchins. Councilor Rozek commented that it will be a good place to test the premium asphalt because of the double dog leg turn. Councilor Otis voiced his concern about the condition of the southern end of Hutchins Street.

Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Councilor Berthiaume to accept the recommendation as presented for resurfacing Hutchins & Bridge at an estimated cost \$130,000.00. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Higbee asked how soon the roadway on Hutchins can be straightened and Mr. Wheeler noted that the alignment will go in the ten year plan. Councilor Higbee confirmed that some of the angle can be taken out of the curve with this project.

Non Public Session

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

218 Blanchard Street

Mr. Wheeler noted that the opportunity to repurchase on this property has closed. There has been some interest in the property from the neighbors. Councilors considered offering the property to the three abutters for demolition. Conditions of the sale will be to tear down the building meeting all applicable codes; paying \$3,500 and merging the property with the existing lot. The item will be voted on publicly.

Right of Way

Ms. Laflamme reported that while doing a survey, York Land Services found that in 1923 residents of Session Street petitioned to decrease the right of way to make room for retaining walls. The properties involved are on the southern side of Session Street where everyone has a retaining wall. In discussing the issue with the City Attorney, he recommends formally discontinuing which would provide a clear understanding of the property boundaries. Once the formal language is determined, there will be a resolution and public hearing.

Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Councilor Berthiaume to come out of non-public session. So moved, the motion carried.

Non Meeting Collective Bargaining

Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Councilor Higbee to go into non meeting per RSA 91-A:2 1 (b) Collective Bargaining. So moved, the motion carried unanimously by roll call.

There being 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.