

**City Council Work Session
October 29, 2018**

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

Others present: City Manager Jim Wheeler, City Clerk Shelli Fortin, Community Development Director Pamela Laflamme, Dammon Frecker, Sarah Boone, and Barbara Tetreault, *Berlin Daily Sun*

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

CS Operations Letter of Support Request

Dammon Frecker and Sarah Boone from Cate Street Capital advised the Council that the NH Public Utilities Commission put out a Request for Proposal for a renewable energy project with a thermal application. They are hoping to apply for a project which will utilize the heated water that condenses from the steam turbine for a 4-acre greenhouse that would be built on site. They would demolish the old warehouse and relocate the maintenance building to allow for the greenhouse to be developed. They are currently working with Wilson Engineering Services on a feasibility study and are seeking \$500,000, which is the maximum for the grant. They are requesting a letter of support from the City Council, as local community support is important. They advised that the construction would provide about a dozen jobs and that there would be about 30 jobs created for the greenhouse when operational. A rough timeline would be to start construction in 2019, with a startup date mid-2020. Councilor Rozek asked if they would continue to honor the easement for the snowmobile trail and Frecker advised they would. Councilor Remillard asked about the size of the greenhouse and they advised it would be 4 acres and they would be growing baby leafy greens. Mayor Grenier asked if they would be interested in finance packages from the Business Finance Authority or CDBG and was advised they were not sure, but would inquire. Mayor Grenier praised them for their commitment to the city. Frecker advised that the grant money comes from alternative compliance payments from the utility companies and that it would take the PUC about 2 months to go through the proposals, so they would decide early in the new year. Councilor Higbee asked if receiving the grant was essential to the project and was advised it is not, but it would help.

Councilor Rozek moved to authorize the City Manager to write a letter to the Public Utility Commission in support of the Burgess Biopower application for the grant; Councilor Higbee seconded and the motion carried with a unanimous vote in favor.

Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Councilor Remillard to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 pm. So moved, the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shelli Fortin
City Clerk

Minutes are not final until they have been approved by the Council at a future meeting.