

## **City Council Work Session April 1, 2019**

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

Others present: City Manager Jim Wheeler, City Clerk Shelli Fortin, Chief Pete Morency, Assistant Chief Dan Buteau, Superintendent of Schools Corinne Cascadden, Business Administrator Bryan Lamirande, Claire Stiles, Barbara Tetreault, *Berlin Daily Sun*, several members of the BEA and 1444 union, and public

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

### **Letter of Cultural Commitment**

Ms. Laflamme distributed copies of an ordinance that was passed in 2014 regarding Mt. Jasper where the Council adopted the Mt. Jasper Management Plan. It identified environmentally and culturally sensitive areas around Mt. Jasper and addressed the challenge of allowing public access while still being cognizant of what needs to be preserved.

Berlin High School may have plans for future expansion to include an onsite bus garage and biomass plant. The school also wants to create a road around the perimeter of the high school. Michael Eastman, representing the Abenaki Nation, Ms. Cascadden and Mr. Lamirande met regarding the school's projects and sensitivity of the Mt. Jasper area. There is not a notification system in place for the projects that will disturb earth. The Abenaki Nation would like prior notification when earth is disturbed in case objects of significance are found or disturbed. They are simply asking to be informed and to be present when earthwork is being done. Ms. Laflamme stated that amending the ordinance will memorialize the request from here on out.

Mayor Grenier confirmed with the Council that Mike Eastman could address the group. Mr. Eastman stated that he walked the mountain and felt that the ancestors were crying. He did not know that work was being done on the access road in the back. He added that when earthwork is done, movement of stones that lock in energies change the level of the energy. He and the Abenaki Nation want to be able to know ahead of time that work will be done and mitigate it without interfering. Mr. Eastman added that anywhere there is a waterway is sensitive. They are looking for prior notification. Mayor Grenier agreed that a letter to the Abenaki Nation should be drafted and a change to the ordinance will be brought to the next meeting.

### **POD Grant to FD**

Mr. Wheeler informed the Council there will be a first read for a grant that will pay for the point of dispensing exercise to be held April 13. There are several new PD resolutions and they will be discussed further on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **United Way Grant to Schools**

Ms. Cascadden said that the United Way grant is a joint project with the PD to work with Law Enforcement Against Drugs (LEAD) which takes the place of DARE. The United Way grant will pay for police officer training, and incentives for students.

Ms. Cascadden added that there are three groups of students that qualified for Nationals. The first is in welding. We had a Health Occupations student place 1<sup>st</sup> and 3 that placed third. Destination Imagination High School team came out 1<sup>st</sup> in the state.

There were also staff members who were recognized: Elaine Connery was recognized for the food pantry; Heidi Barker, Cooperative Extension Food Insecurity; and Patti Stolte for the Afterschool Programs that feed an evening meal.

#### **Code Fire Clerk**

Mr. Wheeler asked to replace a full time position that works half time in the Fire Department and half time in Code Enforcement. This is budget neutral. The person resigned and we would like to fill the position. Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Councilor Berthiaume to replace the code/fire clerk. So moved, the motion carried.

#### **Gold House Pizza**

Mr. Wheeler explained that the property is changing hands and the new owner has applied for a liquor license. Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Councilor Higbee to send a letter to the State Liquor Commission recommending approving the license transfer to Mr. Koxarakis.

#### **Non Public Session**

Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Councilor Higbee to go into non public session per RSA 91-A:3(d) Land Matters. So moved, the motion carried.

Mr. Wheeler updated the Council on an ongoing land issue.

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

Councilor Rozek moved to go into non-meeting per RSA 91-A:2 I(b) Collective Bargaining; Councilor Berthiaume seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Union negotiations were discussed. The Council returned to public session at 7:30 p.m.

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.