

City Council Work Session

Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, Section 8 and Emergency Order #12, Section 3

June 1, 2020

At 6:30 p.m. Mayor Grenier opened the meeting. Due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04 this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to the meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, this is to confirm that we are:

- a) *Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means;*

We are utilizing the Zoom platform for this electronic meeting. All members of the Council have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through the Zoom platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the following phone # 1-646-558-8656, meeting ID 870 3008 8680, or by clicking on the City Council agenda on the City's website, www.berlinnh.gov.

- b) *Providing public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting:*

We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, including how to access the meeting using Zoom or telephonically. Instructions have been provided on the City of Berlin's website of the Council at City Council-agendas

- c) *Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access:*

If anybody has a problem, please call Pam Laflamme at 603-752-8587 or e-mail at: plaflamme@berlinnh.gov

- d) *Adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting*

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, we will adjourn the meeting and have it rescheduled at that time.

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by Roll Call vote. By roll call, each member is to state their presence, and whether there is anyone in the room during this meeting, which is required under the Right to Know law.

Members present at roll call: via Zoom Councilors Remillard, Higbee, Otis, and Eastman who reported they were alone; Councilor Morgan was with Gary, Councilor Theberge indicated that his wife was present. Councilors Rozek, Berthiaume and Mayor Grenier were at City Hall.

Also present were at City Hall, City Manager James Wheeler, via Zoom City Clerk Shelli Fortin, Community Development Director Pamela Laflamme, Superintendent of Schools Julie King, Fire Chief James Watkins, Jamie Welch, Barbara Tetreault, *Berlin Daily Sun*, and public

Dry Camping

Ms. Laflamme explained that the City's ordinance allowing dry camping was for use during Camp Razor and the Jericho ATV Festival. It was not meant for year round use. DES rules do not allow dry camping for more than 7 days in a calendar year.

Campgrounds are allowed in the city in Rural Residential zones as well as in the Jericho Gateway Zone by special exception. There is one campground that has been permitted by the City and one that is in the process with site plan, and a special exception. Then they go to State DES which is a very expensive process.

Last year there was an issue with camping in neighborhoods. The Planning Board is reviewing but has not come up with a recommendation yet.

Mayor Grenier stated that people are investing to do the right thing to open a campground that passes city and State regulation. If we allow dry camping, who will invest to develop a proper campground? Ms. Laflamme added that the DES rules around water and waste are not inexpensive by any means.

Councilor Higbee stated that safety and sanitation are to be considered. Safety may be compromised if there are groups of campers with no maps or footage to maneuver an emergency vehicle. Councilor Berthiaume indicated that the main reason she wanted to talk about this is complaints from neighborhoods where campers are plopping down. We have pockets of this and no control. She cautioned against neighborhoods turning against ATVs.

Councilor Rozek stated that he is aware of a commercial site on 12th Street and another on Route 110. He said that it is important to treat everyone uniformly. Mayor Grenier advised that the dry camping needs a planning Board review. Councilor Remillard agreed saying that she does not want to create an issue where there isn't one. Councilor Morgan noted that she had complaints about camping from Cates Hill with people in the neighborhood that are not happy.

COVID 19 Update

Mr. Wheeler said that it's been a few weeks since the item was on the agenda. The Governor's Stay at Home 2.0 has confused things with the opening of some businesses and not others. The goal is to open slowly. There is equitable way to open and make everyone happy.

Some things that are reopening:

- Senior car parade on June 5.
- Graduation on June 12 at Gaydo Field
- Youth sports with Cal Ripken and Babe Ruth are being reviewed for reopening
- Recreation Day Camps are to open June 22
- The Library has arranged for a book drop off and pick up. They were approved for a \$10,000 grant. The Library will work to improve the outdoor courtyard.

Mayor Grenier added that 10 days ago, a resident of Country Village in Lancaster tested positive. Subsequent testing came out negative. People are taking this seriously for the collective health of the community.

Other

No items

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.