

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, December 16, 2019

Mayor Grenier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at approximately 7:08 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Public Hearing

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 7:09 pm for Resolution 2019-32 Application to Assistance to Firefighters Grant for Replacement of SCBA.

Richard Laflamme of 128 Jasper Street stated that it is imperative the firefighters have breathing apparatus as it will save lives.

Councilor-Elect Mark Eastman of 213 School Street stated he was in favor of the Resolution and that the prices quoted are well in line with the market and a good deal. Eastman stated with the addition of the grant, the City should not pass it up.

Mayor Grenier closed the Public Hearing at 7:10 pm.

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 7:10 pm for Resolution 2019-33 Application to FEMA Emergency Management Performance Grant for Mobile Repeater.

Richard Laflamme of 128 Jasper Street advised that the repeater will extend communications and is well worth the expense to have.

Mayor Grenier closed the Public Hearing at 7:11 pm.

Mayor Grenier opened the Public Hearing at 7:11 pm for Resolution 2019-34 Authorizing Assistance to Firefighters Grant for Replacement of Engine 3 . There were no public comments. Mayor Grenier closed the Public Hearing at 7:12 pm.

Regular Meeting

a. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Grenier, Councilors Remillard, Otis, Gentili, Higbee, Rozek, and Theberge

Absent: Denise Morgan and Diana Berthiaume

Also present: James Wheeler, Susan Tremblay, Pamela Laflamme, Shelli Fortin, Councilor-Elect Mark Eastman, Richard Laflamme, Jamie Welch, Gina Welch, and Barbara Tetreault, Berlin Daily Sun.

c. Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to accept the minutes of the December 2, 2019 Regular Meeting and Work Session, and December 9, 2019 Work Session. So moved, the motion carried.

Disbursements:

Disbursement Summary Draft #1853 start date 12/03/2019 end date 12/16/2019 for a total cash disbursement of \$1,336,727.29. Councilor Theberge moved with a second by Councilor Otis to accept the disbursement summary and pay all bills as recommended by the Committee on Accounts/Claims. So moved, the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Richard Laflamme of 128 Jasper Street advised that he has spoken to the Mayor several times about serving on a committee to help the city. Laflamme shared concerns over the cost of the replacement of the Fire Department roof, stating that a rubber roof could have been installed, which would have saved the City money.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Council Committee Reports - There were no Council Committee reports.

2. Resolution 2019-32 Authorizing Application to Assistance to Firefighters Grant for the Replacement of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) (tabled 12/02/2019)

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Nineteen

A RESOLUTION authorizing an application to the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program for the replacement of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) at a cost of approximately \$154,900.00, of which 90% will be funded by grant and 10% funding by the City

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Berlin as Follows:

Whereas, the Berlin Fire Department's current stock of SCBA's are over 10 years old with some being as much as 15 years old; and

Whereas, the SCBA's are out of current standard; and

Whereas, the 10% match totals \$15,900.00; and

Whereas, if awarded, the Berlin Fire Department would purchase 20 SCBA's, 40 SCBA cylinders and 20 masks.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Berlin, NH, that the City Manager is authorized to apply for and receive funds from the Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant Program for replacement of SCBA's at a cost of approximately \$154,900.00, of which 90% would be grant funded and 10% would be funded by the City.

Be it further resolved that the City Manager is authorized to sign the grant documents and do all things necessary to effectuate the grant. Said funds granted to the City of Berlin will be used for the purpose of the grant.

This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after passage.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to remove this item from the table. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to read Resolution 2019-32 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to read Resolution 2019-32 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, that Resolution 2019-32 be passed. So moved, the motion passed.

3. Resolution 2019-33 Authorizing Application to FEMA Emergency Management Performance Grant for a Mobile Repeater (tabled 12/02/2019)

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Nineteen

A RESOLUTION authorizing an application to FEMA Emergency Management Performance Grant Program for the purchase of a mobile repeater at a cost of \$5,010.10, of which 50% will be funded by grant and 50% funding by the City

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Berlin as Follows:

Whereas, the Fire Department is in need of a mobile repeater for its UTV or Utility truck; and

Whereas, currently if the Fire Department has to respond outside of the city limits, the portable radios' frequency will not reach the station; and

Whereas, the repeater will boost the radio wattage and should then turn the portable radios (5) watts, to a mobile radio (100) watts; and

Whereas, there is partial funding available through FEMA Emergency Management Performance Grant; and

Whereas, if awarded, the City's 50% match, \$2,505.05, would be paid through in-kind training hours.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Berlin, NH, that the City Manager is authorized to apply for and receive funds from the FEMA Emergency Management Performance Grant for the purchase of a mobile repeater at a cost of \$5,010.10, of which 50% will be funded by grant and 50% by the City with in-kind training.

Be it further resolved that the City Manager is authorized to sign the grant documents and do all things necessary to effectuate the grant. Said funds granted to the City of Berlin will be used for the purpose of the grant.

This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after passage.

Councilor Higbee moved, with a second by Councilor Theberge, to remove this item from the table. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Higbee moved, with a second by Councilor Theberge, to read Resolution 2019-33 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Higbee moved, with a second by Councilor Theberge, to read Resolution 2019-33 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Higbee moved, with a second by Councilor Theberge, that Resolution 2019-33 be passed. So moved, the motion passed.

4. Resolution 2019-34 Authorizing Assistance to Firefighters Grant for Replacement of Engine 3 (tabled 12/02/2019)

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Nineteen

A RESOLUTION authorizing an application to the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program for the replacement of Engine 3 which is a 1979 Pierce Pumper at a cost of approximately \$650,713.00, of which 90% will be funded by grant and 10% funded by the City.

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Berlin as Follows:

Whereas, the 1979 Pierce Pumper is beyond its replacement term of twenty years of frontline service to the citizens of Berlin; and

Whereas, Engine 3 is 40 years old, has failed its pump test and the brakes are not working properly; and

Whereas, the NFPA recommends to cycle out the apparatus after twenty years; and

Whereas, the pumper has been deemed unsafe by NFPA standards and in accordance with the grant, the unsafe truck will be permanently removed from emergency service; and

Whereas, the 10% match totals \$65,071.00.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Berlin, NH, that the City Manager is authorized to apply for and receive funds from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program for the replacement of Engine 3, which is a 1979 Pierce Pumper, at a cost of approximately \$650,713.00, of which 90% will be funded by grant and 10% funded by the City.

Be it further resolved that the City Manager is authorized to sign the grant documents and do all things necessary to effectuate the grant. Said funds granted to the City of Berlin will be used for the purpose of the grant.

This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after passage.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to remove this item from the table. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to read Resolution 2019-34 by short title for a second time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, to read Resolution 2019-34 by short title for a third time. So moved, the motion carried.

Councilor Remillard moved, with a second by Councilor Otis, that Resolution 2019-34 be passed. So moved, the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

5. Resolution 2020-01 Transfer of Firing Range Land to AVFG Club (1st read)

Councilor Theberge moved, with a second by Councilor Morgan to table the Resolution and schedule a public hearing for January 6, 2020. So moved, the motion carried.

6. Resolution 2020-02 Opioid Reduction Grant (1st read) – Was removed from agenda, not needed.

7. City Manager's Report

1. A follow up life safety, code and health inspection was conducted at 469 Hillsboro St. on 12/5/19. In summary, violations were found and documented in all three areas. Reports from the respective staff have been provided to legal. We are working on next steps including notification to the owner of what he will need to do to correct the property.
2. Two of the three new loaders were delivered to Public Works on Friday 12/13/19. The 3rd loader is scheduled to be delivered on Wednesday of this week. We do not have the two salt trucks in our possession yet but we are expecting that to occur very soon.
3. Public Works has been running short staffed but also has been busy filling positions. Richard Wood started work as a mechanic during the first week of December. Mathew Cyr and Daniel Croteau started as laborer/equipment operators last week. Having a full crew in addition to new equipment will be a benefit over the rest of winter.
4. Ann Brungot was hired as the new Library Director. Ann has been working at the Library part-time since 2014, is familiar with its operations and exhibits a great passion for the Berlin Public Library. We look forward to her starting in this new role on December 23rd.
5. We have bids out for firefighting gear as well as mobile radios for the Fire Department. We will have a bid out for 84 Corbin Street in which the buyer will have to demolish the building; an

adjoining buildable lot is up for bid as well. We also have a nearby “landlocked” lot that is being offered to abutters. We will report results of these bids when we have them.

6. Chief Jay Watkins has been officially appointed as the Forest Fire Warden for the City of Berlin by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Division of Forests and Lands.
7. The City received a premium holiday for Unemployment Compensation in the amount of \$1,478.46 effective November 1, 2019. This premium holiday is the result of the overall Unemployment Compensation Program fund financial results from 2018.
8. Public Works, Police Department and EMS Statistics are attached.

Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Councilor Higbee to accept the City Manager’s Report and place it on file.

Mayor Grenier congratulated the City Manager and Public Works Director on three highly qualified hires for the Public Works Department.

So moved, the motion carried.

8. Mayor’s Report

a. Resignation Letter from Gerald Dumoulin

Jim Wheeler
City Manager Berlin
City Hall
Main St.
Berlin, NH 03570

Dear Jim,

For many years I have served as Treasurer for the City of Berlin. My personal schedule will no longer allow me to be available to fulfill the required duties of the position. Please accept my resignation effective when my replacement has been appointed.

I have enjoyed working with the staff at City Hall. When on site to perform my duties I often observe the interaction of the staff who are serving our Berlin citizens. I am impressed by the courteous and professional service that is being given. I would like to commend the city employees for their work and dedication.

My duties had me working closely with comptroller Patty Chase and you Jim as city manager. You both have tough jobs that are not always appreciated by all. I strongly believe that the City of Berlin is fortunate to have both of you serving our community. It has been my pleasure to have worked with you both.

I would also like to thank the City Council and Mayor Paul Grenier for the confidence shown in me during my tenure. The leadership and devotion they show in serving our community is outstanding.

Best regards to all

Gerald L Dumoulin

Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Councilor Higbee to accept the Mayor’s Report and place it on file. So moved, the motion carried.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Richard Laflamme of 128 Jasper Street stated that he knows an individual who sells radios and repeaters for the communication devices needed for the Police and Fire Department. Mayor Grenier asked City Manager Wheeler to give the information on the bid process to Mr. Laflamme.

10. Council Comments – There were no Council comments.

11. Adjournment

At approximately 7:37 p.m. Councilor Rozek moved with a second by Councilor Higbee to adjourn the regular meeting. So moved, the motion carried.

A True Record, Attest:

Shelli Fortin
City Clerk

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