

MINUTES
SPECIAL COMMON COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2020 4:30 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BERLIN CITY HALL, 2ND FLOOR

Ald. Lehr called the Special Common Council meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Present: Ald. Lehr, Boeck, Nigbor, Bruessel and Harke. Absent and excused: Ald. Erdmann. Staff present: Atty. Chier, Jodie Olson and Gary Podoll. Mayor Schramer joined the meeting via telephone.

Discussion was held on passing a resolution declaring a state of emergency due to COVID-19. Olson explained the need for the resolution in light of the pandemic we are in and explained that the League of Wisconsin Municipalities and lawyers representing them are strongly recommending passage of these resolutions to prepare for a spread of the COVID-19 virus. Gary Podoll also added that the county passed an emergency declaration resolution already and is sending it to the other municipalities in the county to follow suit. Chier indicated that other municipalities are now passing these resolutions and are being recommended to do so. Ald. Lehr asked that the following be added *“Be it further resolved that since each council member is the sole representative of the residents of their respective wards, all actions taken by the Mayor and City Administrator under this resolution shall be emailed in advance or as soon as possible to each council member.”* Ald. Boeck indicated she saw no need for changes and felt staff would do the right thing. Ald. Lehr and Bruessel also did not like that there was no end date and voiced concern over relinquishing their council authority. Lehr suggested an end date be placed in the resolution of May 5, 2020. Chier indicated that council could rescind the resolution anytime they wanted, but this was written to sunset when the governor withdrew the emergency declaration. Since it could be rescinded anytime, Lehr and Bruessel were satisfied to leave that language as it was. Lehr requested Olson reiterate this was a precautionary resolution for the public. Bruessel moved to adopt Resolution #20-05 Declaring State of Emergency in City of Berlin Regarding COVID-19 with addition of language as requested by Ald. Lehr. Nigbor seconded the motion. A roll call vote resulted in five (5) ayes, zero (0) nays and one (1) absent. Motion carried.

Boeck moved to adjourn at 4:55 p.m. Bruessel seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

Jodie Olson, City Clerk