

MINUTES  
CITY OF BERLIN  
SPECIAL COMMON COUNCIL MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - BERLIN CITY HALL  
THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020 4:30 PM

Kristina Boeck called the Special Common Council meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Roll call vote: Ald. Lehr, Nigbor, Boeck, Erdmann, Bruessel and Harke. Mayor Schramer attended via telephone. Staff present: Scott Zabel, Gary Podoll and Jodie Olson.

Ald. Lehr commented on the layoffs at Badger Mining and offered his concern. Jim Lehr made a political statement regarding the Supreme Court overturning the Safer at Home Order indicating the public was now free.

Discussion was then held on a resolution to declare a continued state of emergency in the City of Berlin regarding COVID-19. Jodie Olson clarified for the public that the purpose of this resolution was strictly related to how to continue with city government operations and does not deal with anything related to the private sector or businesses. She further noted that although there is no current order in place, the county is in the process of putting together an order which should be available shortly. Atty. Chier then explained the purpose of the resolution indicating that it is mostly in place to make sure the Council can still continue with having virtual meetings prior to having an official ordinance in place. He noted the complications he ran across as he started to research an ordinance on virtual meetings and came to realize that there were so many issues to address that he could not do it on his own and they would need to put a task force together for it.

Erdman voiced objection to having the resolution in effect for 90 days and asked that it be 30 days to be examined if necessary after that. She felt it was not right to keep holding off public hearings as it could hinder development during the construction season. She also noted that the third WHEREAS should either be COVID-19 or Coronavirus, but not both. A straw poll indicated council members were in favor or going 30 days instead of 90 days.

Lehr debated and disagreed that the city would have to adhere to any orders the county may put out. The City Attorney indicated this was an issue he had already researched and felt the city needed to comply with the Green Lake County Health Department orders as they are appointed as the City's Health Officer. Gary Podoll spoke indicating that the point of the resolution is to open up the city safely for employees and citizens. He noted that businesses were looking for guidance and were pleased to get it.

When asked about a timeframe to get an ordinance done for virtual meetings, Chier indicated he felt a task force was necessary as there were many issues to be ironed out. Lehr made a statement regarding his convictions to doing the right thing according to the constitution as he wanted everyone present to understand.

Erdmann moved to approve and adopt Resolution #20-09 Declaring a Continued State of

Emergency in City of Berlin Regarding COVID-19 to be in effect for 30 days and not 90 days, remove coronavirus and removal of the first BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED on 2<sup>nd</sup> page be removed. Brussels seconded the motion. A roll call vote resulted in five (5) ayes, one (1) nay (Lehr), zero (0) absent. Motion carried.

Nigbor moved to adjourn at 5:15 p.m. Lehr seconded the motion which carried by the voice vote.

Jodie Olson, City Clerk