

SEWER AND WATER COMMISSION MEETING

BERLIN, WISCONSIN

May 27, 2020

DUE TO THE CONTINUED CONCERN SURROUNDING COVID-19, THE CITY OF BERLIN IS TEMPORARILY
TRANSITIONING THEIR PUBLIC MEETINGS TO A TELECONFERENCE FORMAT,
VIA ZOOM

Roethel called the meeting to order at 4:30 P.M. Present – Commissioners Roethel, Dewhurst, Youngbauer, Bending and Erdmann. Absent – none.

Also, present was Jim Lehr, Lindsey Kemnitz, Jodie Olson, Scott Zabel, Ron Harke, Supt. Malnory and Peggy LaBuda.

The next item on the agenda was minutes from the April 29, 2020 Meeting. Youngbauer moved to approve the minutes of the April 29, 2020 Meeting. Erdmann seconded the motion, which was carried by voice vote.

The next item on the agenda was the vouchers for April. Youngbauer moved to approve the vouchers between #15151 through #15194. Erdmann seconded the motion, which was carried by voice vote.

The next item on the agenda was public appearances/correspondence. Of which, we had no correspondence. For public appearances, Ron Harke had some question about the flags used to locate on N. Washington St.

The next item on the agenda was Old Business. Of which, we had none.

The next item on the agenda was New Business. Of which, we had none.

The next item on the agenda was fluoridation discussion. Erdmann stated that we approve the superintendent's recommendation that we discontinue adding fluoride to our water effective immediately. Bending seconded the motion, which was carried by voice vote.

The next item on the agenda was the discussion on 2019 Compliance Maintenance Annual Report. Malnory stated that the influent is the loading that comes into the plant from the Industries and it is stuff that we cannot control what strength it is. The rest of the grades are what we can control. Bending made a motion to approve Resolution and send the 2019 Compliance Maintenance Annual Report to Council. Erdmann seconded the motion, which was carried by voice vote.

The next item on the agenda was the discussion on Cross Connection Control Inspection contract from General Engineering. Malnory stated that we don't know what is happening with the house to house cross connection surveys yet. We would like to at least get in and get the Commercial ones done. Youngbauer made a motion to approve the contract for Commercial (small business, industrial, public authority and multi-residential). Erdmann seconded the

motion, which was carried by voice vote.

The next item on the agenda was the discussion on Potential 2021 Capital Projects and Funding Option. Utility and city staff have been reviewing potential capital projects for 2021. Malnory stated that between the W&S Utility and the City, reconstruction of Water Street (W. Park-W. Cumberland) remains a high priority. Not only is the road surface poor, but there is a significant water infiltration issue in that area as well as lead lines. This would be a \$3M project (\$1M city - \$2M utility).

Kunkel Engineering has estimated the project cost for the Water Utility to be \$985,482 and Sewer Utility \$915,145. The Sewer Utility could look at a Clean Water Fund loan, where we have the potential to receive 30% in principal forgiveness. This would be a 20-year loan where \$275k would be "forgiven". The interest rate is currently at .99%. The Water Utility has enough in reserves set aside for infrastructure to accommodate the water portion of this project or a Safe Drinking Water loan could be looked at.

This project has been too expensive for the City to consider in recent years, but a grant opportunity has arisen for the City due to the mandatory closeout of the existing federal CDBG RLF program. The CDBG RLF program is a revolving loan fund for business/industry and is being closed down by HUD due to issues with administration.

With the CDBG RLF closeout program, municipalities are given an opportunity to "buy-out" their RLF program. In return for buying out their programs, the municipalities can then apply for a CDBG grant for the amount of the buy-out. The City has a current RLF balance to be bought out of \$1.2M. The City will have \$500k of the \$1.2M, but needs to find a way to finance the additional \$700k. If the Utility would upfront the remaining \$700k in RLF Close Funds needed to apply for the CDBG grant, the city could apply for and receive a \$1.2M grant award to be put towards the Water Street project. The City would then repay the Utility the \$700k plus interest. Youngbauer made a motion to direct staff to pursue Water Street as a 2021 capital project, authorize the Water Utility to upfront the necessary CDBG RLF Closeout Program dollars needed by the City to be reimbursed and continue to pursue Safe Drinking Water and Clean Water Fund Loans with grant forgiveness. Erdmann seconded the motion, which was carried by voice vote.

The next meeting was scheduled for June 17, 2020.

Roethel adjourned the meeting.

Peggy LaBuda
Secretary