

MINUTES  
CITY OF BERLIN  
COMMON COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 2021  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BERLIN CITY HALL, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR

Mayor Bruessel called the September 14, 2021 Common Council meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Roll call present: Ald. Boeck, Erdmann, Lehr, Burgess, Nigbor and Marks. Staff present: Atty. Matt Chier, Jodie Olson, Sara Rutkowski and Midge Seaman

There were no public comments.

The following items were listed on the Consent agenda for approval and adoption: 1) Waive the reading of all ordinances and resolutions adopted at this meeting; 2) Receive and place on file the written reports from the City Clerk, Treasurer and Building Inspector; 3) Approve the minutes from August 10, 2021 Common Council meeting; 4) Approve the list of bills for payment. Erdmann made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Marks seconded the motion. A roll call resulted in six (6) ayes, zero (0) nays and zero (0) absent. Motion passed.

Next Sara Rutkowski announced a donation from the Berlin Youth Baseball & Softball for a Double batting cage. Russ Lichtenberg and Yahn Swallish from the BYBS group explained to the Council what the batting cage was going to look like, where it would be placed and how it would benefit the youth of Berlin. Lehr made a motion to accept the donation of a double batting cage from the Berlin Youth Baseball & Softball. Burgess seconded the motion which passed on a voice vote.

Next on the Agenda, Was the discussion on Health Insurance Renewal. Boeck moved to approve waiving the Committee of the Whole discussion, Erdmann Seconded the motion which passed on a voice vote. Insurance agent, Cassie Bornick of Vizance, gave an overview of our insurance quote this year. She stated we went out to ask for several competitive bids. Four bids came in above the WPS bid and two declined to quote altogether. The WPS renewal offer came in at an increase of 20.1% this year which is equivalent to the 2019-2020 United Healthcare Offer which was 9.5% over the cost being paid for the 2018-2019 benefit year. Bornick stated the high cost of drug usage in our group is driving the rate increase. Boeck asked if it was just our group having an increase like this. Bornick stated the average trend is at 8-12% increase year over year. Marks stated while our deductibles look to be inline, the city premiums continue to be very conservative compared to most other company's premiums. Bornick stated the deductibles are actually higher than the average and that is why the City offers a more conservative premium. Marks motioned to accept the Heath insurance Renewal for the year October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022. Nigbor seconded the motion which passed on a voice vote.

On the Agenda next was the Economic Development Plan Update Award. Erdmann made a motion to bypass the Committee of the Whole discussion. Marks seconded the motion which passed by voice vote. Olson reported the requests for proposals were sent out to update the Economic Development Plan under the CDBG-Planning Grant award. She spoke on the five candidates and how they were scored. The committee looking at the RFPs determined Vierbicher scored the highest. After a short discussion, Erdmann made a motion to Award the CDBG Planning Grant Economic Development Update contract to Vierbicher, not to exceed \$49,000 and to authorize Olson to sign the contract. Burgess seconded the motion which passed on a voice vote.

Next was the renewal of the Connect Communities Renewal Agreement. Lehr made a motion to bypass Committee of the Whole discussion, which was seconded by Nigbor and passed on a voice vote. Olson stated that we will be hiring a new Planning and Development Director in the near future and the Connect Communities is a great asset with many resources available to Planning and Development. She stated we have been a member for quite some time, but there was once when we did not give the approval to renew and that was in the Connect Communities infancy but they are now quite robust and have much to offer for the low renewal of \$200.00. Erdmann made a motion to Approve the Renewal for Connect Communities Agreement #AK6192 between the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation and City of Berlin from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 and Authorize the Mayor sign the Agreement. Lehr seconded the motion which passed on a voice vote.

Discussion followed next on the Nuisance and Clean up 356 S Church Street. Atty. Chier reviewed that Mr. Abitz was ordered by the Court to have the property cleaned up and that the deadline had passed. After some discussion on how the cleanup efforts appeared to be non-productive, Burgess made a motion to have staff look into hiring someone to clean up the property. Nigbor seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

Next on the agenda was the 115 W Ceresco Street Property Issue. Boeck made a motion to waive the Committee of the Whole discussion. Marks seconded the motion which carried by voice vote. Olson reported that Lindsey Kemnitz had been working with the Building Inspection on this property. The water had been shut off in April and there was reported to be a good amount of rot and deterioration on the outside of the building and we have not been able to access the interior. The building inspector determined that regardless of the inside of the home, the amount of work on the exterior of the building would exceed the value of the home and his opinion is that it should be razed. Marks made a motion to direct Chier to put into action the steps to complete a Raze or Repair order. Lehr seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

There was no new or old business and no public appearances.

At 7:41 PM Marks made a motion to convene into closed session pursuant to WI §19.85 (1)(g) to confer with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved. (*Discuss on 271 McKittrick Street Property issue*) and pursuant to WI § 19.85 (1) (c), to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility (*Discussion on Planning & Development Director Candidates*). Boeck seconded the motion. A roll call vote resulted in six (6) ayes, zero (0) nays and zero (0) absent. Erdmann made a motion to seat Jodie Olson and Sara Rutkowski Marks seconded the motion, which carried by voice vote.

At 8:13 pm, Marks moved to reconvene into open session. Burgess seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

There was no action taken as a result of closed session discussion

Burgess moved to adjourn. Nigbor seconded the motion, which carried by voice vote.

Midge Seaman, Deputy Clerk