

MINUTES  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
CITY OF BERLIN  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2022 7:00 PM  
COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Mayor Bruessel called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present: Ald Lehr, Boeck, Nigbor, Erdmann, Marks and Burgess. Staff present: Sara Rutkowski, Tim Ludolph, Jeffery Engel, Scott Strahan, Joshua Heider, Atty Chier and Susan Thom.

There were no virtual attendees.

Erdmann made a motion to approve the December 7, 2021 meeting. Burgess seconded the motion, which carried by voice vote.

Next was Audit Contract Renewal. Rutkowski reviewed that our auditing contract is up for renewal and typically goes out for bids for a three year contract. Our current auditing firm Hawkins, Ash, Baptie & Co (HABCO) has expressed interest in submitting a renewal quote for Council consideration in lieu of going through the formal bidding process which is similar to what was done in November of 2018. The City's bidding policy calls for a formal bidding process unless otherwise waived by the Common Council upon determination that the contract will have no substantial changes upon the renewal and that such waiver would best achieve stated objectives. HABCO bid would include a 3% change for the next 3 years. Erdmann stated in as much as a precedent has been set in 2018 considering we have a change in personnel and Hawkins, Ash, Baptie & Co are familiar to us it would help the process go smoothly. Erdmann made a motion to recommend to Common Council to allow Hawkins, Ash, Baptie & Co renew their contract for 3years with no bidding with their increase. Boeck seconded the motion. Lehr made a motion to amend it to include a Memorandum of Understanding. Marks seconded the amendment. Motion was carried as amended by voice vote.

Next was Child Safety Zone Exception for Ashley Valadez at 204 Ripon Rd. Engel reviewed that Ashley Valadez relocated to the State of Wisconsin in 2021. A requirement as a registered violent offender under Minnesota law is to inform Wisconsin authorities of her relocation and to register as an offender. Wisconsin does not have a violent offender registry; therefore violent offender is to register as sex offenders. The registered offender is not to reside within 300' of a designated safe zone. The distance from 204 Ripon Rd to Faith Community Church property is 209'. Engel consulted with the Minnesota Predatory Offender Registry, it is stated Ashley is a zero classification indicating a low level of re-offending. The Wisconsin Sex Offender Registry believes that Ashley is a low risk in re-offending. Engel made a recommendation Ashley be granted a 91' waiver. With granting the waiver, Ashley must be made completely aware of the situation and circumstances concerning this waiver including that it can be revoked. Discussion was held on the concern of setting precedence of waiving the restriction. Lehr and Marks reiterated that the City ordinances are in place to keep us safe. Erdmann made a motion to recommend to Common Council to grant this waiver for Ashley Valadez for this situation. Boeck seconded the motion. A voice vote resulted in four (4) ayes (Erdmann, Boeck, Burgess, and Nigbor) and two (2) nays (Lehr and Marks).

Next was Commercial Signs Removal on Vacant properties. Boeck reviewed the City ordinance regarding the Removal of signs and sign structures for vacated buildings and the inconsistency of

enforcing this ordinance. Discussion followed with Tim Ludolph to start working on following up on properties that do not comply with this ordinance.

Next was Employee Residency Requirement. There were two public comments. Officer Strahan reviewed how the current residency policy has affected his family. Officer Heider reviewed how the current policy has affected his ability and restriction on purchasing a reasonable home. Engel reviewed how this impacts the Police Department pool of applicants. Discussion followed on the importance of having the employee being involved in the community. Rutkowski reviewed that the Street Department and Water Department would like to keep the current residency requirement for their departments. Boeck made a motion to recommend to Common Council to relax the 15 miles residency requirement to 50 miles for the police department. Erdmann seconded the motion, which carried by voice vote.

Next was update on City Audio Visual Broadcasting System upgrade. Rutkowski reviewed that the system was worked on for 4 hours in December and they would be continuing the work.

Next was Monarch City USA presentation from Mayor Bruessel. Bruessel reviewed what the costs and benefits to joining Monarch City USA. Erdmann made a motion to recommend to Common Council to join the Monarch City USA at a \$50 lifetime fee. Nigbor seconded the motion which carried by voice vote. Marks voted nay.

At 8:11 p.m., Nigbor made a motion to adjourn. Lehr seconded the motion, which carried by voice vote.

Susan Thom, Deputy clerk