

CITY OF BERLIN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, November 7, 2023 7:00 PM
COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Mayor Bruessel called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present: Ald Boeck, Burgess, Dretske, Durtschi, Nigbor and Stobbe. Staff present: Sara Rutkowski, Chief Brian Pulvermacher, Matt Chier and Caitlin Hilgart.

There were no Virtual Attendees to seat.

There was fourteen Public Comment registration card on Agenda item #5 the Nativity Scene. One Public Comment registration card from Diane Hall, 287 McKittrick St. expressed concerns about the property at 271 McKittrick St. Mayor Bruessel thanked everyone for their concerns.

Dretske made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 10, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting. Burgess seconded the motion which passed on a voice vote.

Item #5 was the Nativity Scene. There was fourteen people that spoke in favor of keeping the Nativity Scene at the Fireman's Park. Attorney Chier spoke about some issues concerning any legal or constitutional requirement and conflicting authority. Attorney Chier advise that there be a close session item added to this agenda to allow for the committee to listen to legal counsel and deliberate on the matter. There was a very lengthy discussion held. Dretske made a motion to keep the Nativity Scene placed at Fireman's park also to defer this item to the Parks and Recreation Committee to find alternative solution for the future. Burgess seconded the motion and it passed on a roll call vote of six (6) Ayes.

Item #6 was the GL Account Creation for the "Save the Pool" Funds. Rutkowski presented that there had been an estate donation made and staff dose not have the ability to roll over the donation to the next year unless there is a General Leger Account created. Stobbe made a motion to recommend to Common Council to create an assigned GL account to hold any funds donated to "Save the Pool". Durtschi seconded the motion and passed on a voice vote.

Next was the Recycling Fee Options. Rutkowski presented the request she received from Council to look into possible recycling fee options as other municipalities do charge fee for recycling that is not part of the tax levy. There was discussion held. Durtschi proposed looking to ordinance change to make it work for the next budget cycle. No action was taken.

Item #8 was the 2024 Budget Final Discussion. Rutkowski stated the Public Hearing is scheduled for next week November 14, 2023 meeting at 6:30pm. There was discussion held about small miner changes made. No action was required on this item.

Item #9 was the Liquor License Information Request Update. Rutkowski spoke about this subject and stated that she had heard back from 9 of the 12 establishments with Class B Liquor License. Discussion was held and asked to look at the possible changes to the ordinance. Further discussion will be held on this item in February.

Next was the EMS Contract and Program Update. Rutkowski provided a little update and the snag that herself and other staff ran into at County level concerning equipment replacement. Stating that both parties are still working out discussions on the contract.

Next was the recommendation from the Cemetery Board for the purchase of the truck and Kiosk. Rutkowski stated that the Cemetery Board oversees all of the finances related to Oakwood Cemetery, are only allowed to spend a certain amount before the board needs approval from Council. This item will be recommended to the Common Council.

Item #12 was the Cemetery Rules Update. Cemetery Board is looking for approval for update made to the Cemetery Board concerning Columbarium's Item will be recommended to the Common Council.

Next the Mayor requested a motion was necessary to convene into closed session pursuant to Wis Stat §19.85 (1) (e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the public funds, or conducting other special public business, whatever competitive or bargaining reasons required a closed session (PD Union Wages). Nigbor made a motion to convene into closed session. Second by Durtschi and motion carried via roll call vote of six (6) ayes.

Discussion continued in Closed Session.

Nigbor made a motion to reconvene into open session with a second by Burgess. Motion carried via voice vote.

Stobbe motioned to recommend to Common Council to approve the Union Wage Agreement as presented with a second from Nigbor. Motion carried via voice vote.

Burgess made the motion to adjourn, with a second from Nigbor. Motion carried via voice vote.

Caitlin Hilgart, Deputy Clerk