

CITY OF BERLIN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2024 7:00PM
BERLIN COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL
Zoom Meeting ID: 893 1930 8907 Password: 123456

Mayor Bruessel called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Present: Ald Stobbe, Boeck, Burgess, Durtschi, and Nigbor. Absences: Dretske (approved). Staff present: Attorney Matt Chier, Sara Rutkowski, Scott Zabel, Chief Pulvermacher, Tim Ludolph, Chris Kalupa and Deb Thiel.

Alderman Burgess asked for item number 6 be moved to the bottom of the agenda. More people would be coming in later due to them being at the Farmers & Artists market.

There were two public comment cards. Victoria Hill, 142 N. Wisconsin St. Berlin WI. Hill is a member of the Friends of Berlin Aquatic Center to discuss the overwhelming support they are getting from the community members. After only one week of a survey being sent out there have been 130 responses and it has been 100% in favor of keeping the pool. 38% are people from out of town. There have been many donations coming in, a lot of the money coming from out of town sources that feel the pool is important. Second comment card was from Ammanda Garza, 148 S. Kossuth, Berlin WI. Garza is also a member of the Friends of Berlin Aquatic Center and stated 3 groups have pledged a total of \$60-\$100 thousand dollars. Mayor thanked both Hill and Garza for their comments.

#4 - Approval of minutes. Durtschi made a motion to approve the May 7th, 2024 minutes as presented. Nigbor seconded the motion. Passed with voice vote.

#5 - Library request for Upstairs upgrade. Chris Kalupa said there have been a lot of nice donations coming in the past year. The library board would like to use the money for another meeting space in the upstairs portion of the library and is seeking approval from the council. The engineer from the construction company has been met with and they are ready to go as soon as the final decision on what they want and the approval has been given. Nigbor made a motion to recommend to the common council to approve the addition the library. Stobbe seconded the motion. Passed with voice vote.

#7 - Helicopter Nuisance Discussion. Matt Chier stated a complaint from a resident regarding a helicopter landing across from a residential home, loud noise and vibration that it caused. Zoning codes would need to be changed, prohibiting residential except for the hospitals which would be exempt. There are nuisance ordinances that exist now. We probably have a right to prohibit now but we would need to make the ordinance much clearer. Stobbe asked if this was even us or zoning and planning. Chier stated it has to go through the zoning and planning and then it would come back to us. Burgess has received calls from concerned parents of kids who are riding their bikes, walking towards the park. The helicopter was very close to the power lines. It could end up be a very dangerous situation. Durtschi asked Chier about the concerns coming in and how do you define helicopter vs drones, because there are very large drones out there. Chief said they only received one or two calls. Residents are afraid to leave their names. Durtschi asked if it was necessary to create a whole new ordinance, can we just consistently enforce the current ordinances. The pilot of the helicopter has been reached out to twice now. This would need to go to the planning commission to discuss. Chier suggested putting in a

provision to our current noise ordinance. Stobbe made a recommendation that Chier update the nuisance ordinance and move it to the planning and zoning committee.

#8 – Vacant Building Registration Discussion. Tim Ludolph would like in the short term have the residential exemption removed and, in the future, have a more robust plan for residential. They can have a vacant building but they need to take care of it. Motion to change the ordinance by staff direction to remove the residential exemption by Durtschi. Burgess 2nd the motion. Passed with voice vote.

#9 – Safe Streets for All Grant. Sara Rutkowski talked about how to create a Community Action Safety Plan. The grant would help us create this. This would include the community. It is a 20% match so it would need council approval to pay that 20%. Minimum to request is \$100 thousand dollars but we don't have to use that total amount. We can try things first to see if they work, if they don't work we don't have to implement them. There is an implementation grant to apply for as well. It will include all safety items within the downtown. The community would be asked what kinds of safety items they would like to see used. If approved we would find out in October and would have 5 years to spend the money. Stobbe made a motion to make a recommendation to council to apply for the Safety Street grant. Burgess 2nd. Passed with voice vote.

#10 – Resolution 24-08 Budget Adjustment for Assessment Services. Rutkowski talked about adjusting the expenditure limit line so as to not go over budget. The services will be completed by the end of summer. Nigbor made a motion to make a recommendation to council for a resolution 24-08 Budget Adjustment for Assessment Services. Stobbe 2nd the motion. Passed with voice vote.

#6 – Downtown Lights Agreement. Burgess talked about Bootify Berlin. They would like to do a Bloody Mary walk to raise funds to Bootify Berlin. They would like to see lights go along the skyline of the buildings. They have almost \$7000 saved up for this project. The city would maintain the lights and the DPW group would put the lights up. They need to get an agreement from the city owners first. They would like to do full blocks at a time. Council agreed to allow this project to proceed. There was no action needed, so no motion.

#11 – Motion to convene into closed session pursuant to Wis Stat 19.85. Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session (Developer's Agreement for Nicolet Lumber Development on Lot 1 of CSM 3037, Tax Parcel 206-01082-0200). Burgess made a motion to close the session at 8:09pm. Nigbor 2nd the motion. Motion carried 5 Aye's with one Absent.

Discussion continued in closed session.

Stobbe made a motion to move into open session. Second by Nigbor. Roll call taken. 5 Ayes with 1 Absent. Burgess made a motion to adjourn with a second by Boeck. Motion carried via voice vote.

Deb Thiel, Deputy Clerk