

CITY OF BERLIN
SPECIAL COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2024

1. Roll Call: Burgess, Stobbe, Durtschi, Nigbor, Boeck, Przybyl.
2. Virtual Attendees Seated: none.
3. Public hearing on 2025 budget.

Mayor Bruessel opened the public hearing. Interim Administrator Wessel presented the proposed 2025 budget in the following amounts: General Government \$913,152; Public Safety \$1,879,006; Public Works \$1,615,532; Health & Human Services \$274,080; Culture & Recreation \$866,577; Conservation & Development \$158,484; Capital Projects \$44,000; Debt Service \$896,003; Contingency \$20,000 for a total of \$6,666,834 and General Property Tax Levy of \$2,434,092.

Wessel reviewed the proposed changes from the draft budget that was presented October 18 including retiree payout, municipal insurance adjustment, employee compensation study, comprehensive capital improvement plan, strategic plan, comprehensive plan update, weights and measures contract adjustment, corrected library salaries, and corrected intergovernmental revenues. Total general fund expenditures in the 2025 budget are \$6,666,834 and the total general fund revenues are \$6,210,553 resulting in a deficit of \$456,281. Wessel reviewed the revenues and advised that the general transportation aid will continue to decline due to significantly reduced spending on transportation infrastructure projects. Wessel outlined future consideration for reducing or eliminating the deficit including reducing costs; increasing revenues such as transferring eligible expenditures off the levy, applying for grants, and/or implementing new revenues such as wheel tax and/or park impact fees; and to exceed the state-imposed levy cap which would require a referendum. The City of Berlin taxes on a median valued home (\$130K) are approximately \$1,120 and pays for road maintenance, fire protection, emergency medical services, police services, library, senior services, parks and recreation, garbage and recycling pickup, etc. The monthly cost of these services is approximately \$105/month per household, which is about the same cost as cable TV.

The mayor called 3 times for public comment in favor of the proposed budget, no public comment. The mayor called 3 times for public comment opposed to the proposed budget, no public comment.

Mayor Brussel closed the public hearing.

Motion by Durtschi, second by Przybyl to approve Resolution #24-10; A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Berlin adopting the 2025 Budget and setting the operating tax levy for 2024, collectible 2025. Roll Call. Ayes: Burgess, Stobbe, Durtschi, Nigbor, Boeck, Przybyl. No Nays. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Motion by Burgess, second by Stobbe to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Motion adjourned at 6:56 pm.

Diane Wessel, Interim City Administrator