

CITY OF BERLIN COMMITTEE ON AGING MEETING MINUTES
26th DAY of August, 2025 10:00 AM
Berlin Senior Center

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ann Murphy at 10:00 AM

Roll Call:

Present: Ann Murphy, Chairman (2028)
Jimmy Jodarski, Vice Chair (2026)
Paul Hanan, Secretary (2026)
Susan Jungenberg (2026)
Mary Hess (2027)
Amanda Krause (2027)
Victoria Hill, Council Liaison
Jill Dittman, Acting Senior Center Director

Excused: Richard Lashbrook (2027)

Murphy led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public comments: Bob Bonneville (President of the Friends of the Senior Center), commented that it is his personal opinion to install a "full time" director for the Senior Center, with a possible adjustment in Center hours. Jane Wagner (Chair of the Senior Center dining club) also commented that it would be beneficial if more interested parties became active in the Senior Center, as well as including additional activities to be incorporated in the monthly schedule. Joanne Guden commented that Dittman is doing a fantastic job, and interjected that the possible new hours from 9 AM to 1 PM be granted for the assistant, and 11 AM to 4 PM be scheduled for the director. Additionally, Guden would like to see the Senior Center remain open after 4 PM if possible. Dittman responded that the hours from 9 AM to 4 PM were ideal. Dittman also commented that she had no concrete opinion regarding a "full-time or part-time" director. Chuck Fehl commented that he believed the duties of the director require a "full-time" position, & that a "sense of humor" is of key importance. Hanan informed the group of the current Medicaid/Medicare phishing scam that has hit the Internet. Fehl ended the Public comments with the suggestion that the new director be hired on an hourly basis.

Hanan made a motion to approve the prior meeting minutes, seconded by Hess, & carried by unanimous voice vote.

Hanan made a motion to table the expenditures and revenues, a 2nd was voiced by Jungenberg, and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Jessie Balcom (the City of Berlin Administrator) informed the group that the current job position opening for the new Senior Center Director has not been determined as of yet, due to the "hourly Vs. salary" decision. Additionally, there is a consideration of renaming the new Director position from "Parks & Recreation Director" to "Senior Center & Recreation Facilities Coordinator," as the department has changed over the years. Jungenberg inquired as to the amount of time required to successfully operate the "Senior Center" versus the duties required for "City Parks and Recreation." Dittman responded that the May to September time allotment requires 25%, & the rest of the year requires 10% in relation to "City Services". Hill interjected that with vast amount of the required duties given to a director, a full-time position is ideal. Krause commented that a "part-time" individual would be stifling to the growth of the Senior Center. Hill responded to one of the 12 individuals in the gallery inquiring as to the discontinuation of certain services provided by the city, as the decision was primarily a "budget issue". Jodarsky interjected that anything but a full-time position would "Handicap" the Senior Center. Dittman agreed. Balcom then polled the committee as to their recommendation for the City of Berlin Common Council, with all members an agreement that a "full-time" Director is most desirable. Hess inquired as to the remuneration of the Directors position. Hanan stated that funds paid to the "Director" will be commensurate with their experience. Balcom also stated that there was some confusion over the prior years, in relation to the director and functions of the Director, with the explanation of why there should be a position "Title" name change. Hill recommended that the new position have "Director" in the title due to future city growth & bifurcation of departments. Hill & Jungenberg both agreed that additional non-scripted duties arise quite often, and only "Salaried" individuals should be considered.

There was no County Committee on Aging update, as there was no previous meeting. Their next meeting is scheduled for September.

New business: N/A

Old business: N/A

The meeting was adjourned by chairman Murphy at 10:37am.

Submitted by:
PAUL HANAN
C.O.A.Secretary