

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES – FEBRUARY 16, 2016

A. CALL TO ORDER: The Regular City Council meeting was held on February 16, 2016 in the city council room of the New Germany City Hall. Mayor Van Lith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., those present were: Mayor Van Lith, Councilpersons Shirley Jaeger, Ty Turnquist, Cathy Ruschmeier and Nick Hartwig. Others present were: City Clerk – Twyla Menth. Audience members present were: Fire Chief Ruschmeier, Kyle Roach with Sun Share, Bailey Breggemann, Gerald Goede, and Ron Kassulker.

B. CITIZEN COMMENT: There were no additional comments from the audience.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Jaeger moved and Turnquist seconded approval of the agenda. The motion carried.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Turnquist moved and Ruschmeier seconded approval of the February 2, 2016 minutes. The motion carried.

E. SHERIFF'S REPORT: The monthly Sheriff report was included in the Council packet, Council reviewed report.

F. FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Camden and Hollywood Townships were present to discuss 2017 Fire Contracts and rates. Mayor Van Lith went through the 2015 financial report for the Fire Department and number of calls for 2015. Kassulker noted that the calls for Hollywood were almost double from previous year; mostly due to the storm and accidents on hwy 7. Kassulker asked what is the comparison of New Germany Fire Department wages verses other departments comparable in size; Mayor Van Lith stated that New Germany is paid per call and it was \$7 and in 2016 it will be \$10, first raise in almost twenty years and New Germany is still low on the pay scale. Goede was questioning if it was raised more would it entice new members. Mayor Van Lith reported the fire department has recently received a potential fire fighter who is going through application process. Chief Ruschmeier commented that in his opinion it is the commitment of training and meetings, most departments are paid by the hour New Germany is by the call. Chief Ruschmeier also stated that allot of smaller cities do not receive any compensation only retirement fund, New Germany is fortunate to receive wage compensation. Chief Ruschmeier reported calls are down for 2016 and explained that the ambulance service is moved in and will be operating out of New Germany as of tonight. Camden and Hollywood asked questions on ambulance and Chief Ruschmeier and Council explained. After discussion there were positive comments by all parties on the ambulance service. Goede has an issue with the payment dates of the 2017 Fire Contract. Council and Goede discussed payment terms and dates. Goede seems to think Camden Township has prepaid; Council has asked for some type of proof and Mayor Van Lith does not ever remember this being paid ahead or three payments in a year. Goede will go back to the township and ask for some type of proof; Chief Ruschmeier explained they are not charging any extras like some Departments do and do not want to go there. Chief Ruschmeier also explained to Goede that you are paying for a service and this money is needed to pay expenses. Chief Ruschmeier stated Clayton Quaas has started the application process and they will have 22 members with Quaas, 2 reserves, and 2 medical.

G. TREASURE REPORT: Council reviewed the Treasure report. The Treasury report noted a balance of \$842,282.36 in the General fund, Bond account \$1045.00, and CD account \$47,600.67 for a total of \$890,928.03. Jaeger moved and Ruschmeier seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion carried.

H. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: Turnquist moved and Jaeger seconded to approve the claims in the amount of \$ 10,673.89. The motion carried.

I. WATER SEWER REPORT: Nothing at this time.

J. ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

1. Kyle Roach with SunShare introduced himself and explained that are installing a Community Solar Garden in Winsted and are looking for subscriptions. Roach went on to explain this was a Colorado based business and has now expanded into MN, the program in MN is uncapped at this time and any City, school, resident can jump on board. The land is more valuable in MN than Colorado and with that there have been some growing pains; all of Colorado projects were prepaid, here in MN they do

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financing, Roach continued explaining many moving parts to the subscription. In the end anyone with an Xcel meter can be part of the subscription to this solar garden. SunShare earns revenue based of subscription payments and your credit would be on your Xcel statement; Roach noted that the program in Waverly is now being offered to residents. There is always a risk which you could be paying more than what you are getting Xcel credit for; worst case scenario. They have community solar projects going up in these areas; Waverly, Winsted, Starbuck, Cold Spring, St Michael, Montrose, Waseca, NYA, Waterville and many in Colorado. Roach also informed Council they plant clover for the bees and milkweed for the butterflies, in addition to supplying curriculum for schools. Most of the financing is being done through US Banks and Wells Fargo in MN, once the subscriptions are completed, they go to the banks. Questions were asked by Council on how many acres to produce 1 MW; Roach noted they would need 5 – 7 acres. The MN office is located in Mpls at 10th and Portland, as of now they employ about 50 people and are growing, they only do Community Solar Gardens.

2. Clerk and Lee Ortloff will be meeting with Karen from MDH on February 29, 1 pm here at office on the Wellhead Protection program.

3. Letter from County and Commissioner Ische were included in Council packet; they are asking for a signed Resolution in support of making Met Council accountable and having representation from Carver County; Council had a discussion and reviewed the information provided. Ruschmeier moved and Jaeger seconded to accept Resolution 2016-04 Approving Supporting Principals for Reform of the Metropolitan Council. The motion carried.

4. PACE – Property Assessed Clean Energy is having an informational meeting March 2 from 9 – 10 AM in Victoria if anyone would like to attend with Clerk.

K. BUILDING PERMIT UPDATE: Turnquist is working with developer/builder for possible slab twin homes on Park Street.

L. COMPLAINT LOG: will move the complaint under Planning Commission.

M. PW REPORT: The Fire Department van is now in cold storage on account of housing the ambulance.

N. PARKS REPORT: Jaeger checked into the planter quote from 2012 and it was around \$393 per planter.

O. MAYORS REPORT: Clerk had her employee review and will put on the agenda for March 2.

P. CLERKS REPORT: Clerk reported Marty Walsh would like to meet to discuss parking lots, mowing and come up with an agreement for the City, was tentatively scheduled for March 2 in the AM. Council felt he attend Council Meeting and questions and concerns can be addressed. Sheriff Department would like to know if the City would like to do the Drug Take Back Program on April 30 from 10 AM – 2 PM; Mayer has it every other year.

Clerk went through County meeting dates as there are many different meetings coming up; she will try and attend what she can.

Q. OLD BUSINESS: 1. Turnquist explained the results of Planning Commission meeting on February 10, 2016, here at the office. They had a discussion addressing the trailer parking issues on the City streets and explained what Dean with Resource Strategies recommended. Turnquist and Hartwig informed Council that the PC meeting was an informational meeting in regards to Solar panels on the Clay Montgomery land. Dean with Resource Strategies and Gerardo Ruiz reviewed MN Solar proposal for an extended period of time and informed PC and discussed options and came up with a plan to move forward with application. Resource Strategies recommends that the Solar Company submit an application requesting zoning and ordinance changes to language, definitions of area (three zones) which is additional expense for the City; require an escrow account for expenses from the solar company. When the process of rezoning the property, that area or property would be the only property zoned in that way; prevents solar panels going up anywhere in the City. PC recommends to Council to

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establish an escrow account and application process; as of now there is nothing like this on the City fee schedule for Solar wholesale, the amount Dean recommended was \$3000 - \$3500. Escrowing the money with the application is the first stage, if Council agrees the next step would be an IUP (interim use permit) and then you would want an additional escrow amount, along with Public Hearing dates. Turnquist recommends that a wholesale fee schedule be set up; Ruschmeier also suggested Clerk check with Auditor on setting up the account/fund. Turnquist moved and Jaeger seconded to set up an escrow/deposit account for solar wholesale application on the City fee schedule. The motion carried. Mayor Van Lith read Pete Pederson complaint on the Planning Commission meeting and then also read Pederson's PC resignation letter. Jaeger moved and Hartwig seconded to extend the meeting at 8:58 PM. The motion carried. Van Lith stated the Pederson has a valid complaint on Carolyn and Dave Effertz. Council had discussion and has advised Clerk to send the Effertz a letter. Ruschmeier moved and Jaeger seconded to accept Pete Pederson letter of resignation. The motion carried. Also send Pederson a thank you for his years of service on the PC. Possible advertise for Planning Commission members.

R. NEW BUSINESS: March meeting is on March 2 due to caucuses on March 1, in the 2016 Meeting schedule it is printed this way. Jaeger will not be able to attend meeting due to Church conflict; Council will leave meeting on March 2.

S. ADJOURNMENT: Turnquist moved and Jaeger seconded to adjourn meeting at 9:14 PM. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted, _____ Twyla Menth, City Clerk