

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES – MARCH 20, 2018

A. CALL TO ORDER: The Regular City Council meeting was held March 20, 2018 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, absent Nick Hartwig. Others present were: City Clerk – Twyla Menth, Fire Chief – Dan Ruschmeier. SEH – Karen Cavett, Auditor – Sara Beavers Audience members present were: None present.

B. CITIZEN COMMENT: No citizen comments.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Jim Nash had to cancel will reschedule. Jaeger moved and Turnquist seconded approving the agenda with the change noted above. The motion carried, unanimously. 4/0

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Jaeger moved and Ruschmeier seconded approval of the March 6, 2018 minutes. The motion carried, unanimously. 4/0

E. SHERIFFS REPORT: Sheriff report was on table for review.

F. FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

1. Two new Fire Fighters; Dustin O'Brien and Dan DeRusha. They have passed back ground checks, physicals, and agility testing. Dustin O'Brien is a former Fire Fighter who just moved to New Germany and works local. The Fire Department with these two will have 27 members, cap is 28. In the future they are thinking there will be one retiring and possible 3 more that will be eligible. First responder training is on the 26th of March and Chief Ruschmeier would like to send the four new Fire Fighters together.

Turnquist moved and Jaeger seconded approving Dustin O'Brien and Dan DeRusha to the New Germany Fire Department. The motion carried, unanimously. 4/0

2. Chief Ruschmeier explained to Council the 2019 Township and City Fire Department coverage contracts; Council reviewed the numbers with Chief Ruschmeier. Chief Ruschmeier explained the department needs; turn out gear, SCBA, and not to mention truck replacements in the future. Turnquist moved and Jaeger seconded approving the 2019 New Germany Fire Department Contract rates as printed. The motion carried, unanimously. 4/0

Chief Ruschmeier would also like to research how much it would cost to replace the outdated TV in the office; smart TV can be used for Fire Department training material and if anyone attending has materials to share with Council or anyone else; Council agreed it is time to update, move forward and get some prices.

G. TREASURE REPORT: The Treasury report noted that the General fund balance was \$1,267,211.31, which includes the CD's balance of \$48,284.24. February bank statement and reconciliation were included. Ruschmeier moved and Jaeger seconded approval of the Treasure report. The motion carried, unanimously. 4/0

H. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: Jaeger moved and Ruschmeier seconded approving claims in the amount of \$11,001.21. The motion carried, unanimously. 4/0

I. WATER SEWER REPORT: Continue working on the Well Head Protection Plan.

J. ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

1. Sara Beavers with Oberloh and Assoc., the City's Auditor was here to present the 2017 Audit. Sara went through the audit with Council. Turnquist moved and Ruschmeier seconded approving the 2017 Audit for the City of New Germany. The motion carried, unanimously. 4/0

2. Karen with SEH the City's engineering firm was present to discuss the wastewater permit. Karen explained to Council the phosphorus issues the city currently is facing and after Karen's research she has suggested to Council to try and buy phosphorus credits from Lester Prairie. Karen was thinking it could cost the city yearly from \$500 – 2500. Dredging depending on the thickness of the solids could be in the \$250,000 range; need time to plan for this if decided to go this route. Karen explained and is suggesting

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placing a manhole cover around the existing effluent pipe. This would help raise the pipe off the bottom; this would limit the solids intake and is affordable option. Karen would like to see this placed by this spring. Karen also explained the grant options and capacity issues. Council and Karen continued discussion on dredging and other options. Ruschmeier moved and Jaeger seconded that Lee Ortloff will review with Henning's and move forward with manhole type placement around the effluent pipe. The motion was discussed; Turnquist brought up what if it is \$10,000 or more. Van Lith amended the current motion and Jaeger seconded adding anything over \$5,000 would need Council approval. The motion carried, unanimously. 4/0

K. BUILDING PERMIT UPDATE: 2 bathrooms and 1 window replacement.

L. COMPLAINT LOG: None at this time.

M. PW REPORT: Van Lith is continuing working on the water issue on Black Forest Road; tree root, debris in pipe. Van Lith will discuss with Henning's cleaning out trees/roots at end of pipe.

N. PARKS REPORT: Easter Egg hunt was well attended. Commercial Club will meet April 23, 7 PM. April 6 is the first ball game.

O. MAYORS REPORT: Nothing to report at this time.

P. CLERKS REPORT: Randy Lehs with Carver County Fiber Optic would like to install a fiber optic box in the water tower. Ruschmeier moved and Turnquist seconded approving the installation of fiber optic box in water tower. The motion carried, unanimously. 4/0

Q. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Personnel Committee finished the Clerk's four-year employee review tonight prior to Council meeting. Ruschmeier noted that the employee review was documented. Ruschmeier went through some of the Clerks strengths and overall the personnel committee feels the Clerk is performing well. Council discussed if the Clerk felt she had any office equipment needs; possible new chair, mouse etc. Council discussed if the Clerk felt she had any personal protection issues in the office; Clerk will do some research on personal protection and report back to Council. Clerk did mention to personnel committee the job description states 32 hours and with Council and Planning Commission meeting she does go over; look at amending in the future. Clerk's health insurance rates are reviewed in July as that is when Her healthcare rate increases; City reimburses her healthcare premium at \$238.12 per month. Ruschmeier moved and Turnquist seconded increasing the Clerk's wages to \$23.50 per hour, retroactive to February 3; this is an .86 increase, will visit the insurance in July. The motion carried, unanimously. 4/0

2. Council discussed the light at Water Treatment Plant; Eric Roepke get a quote on relocating the light to the east side and the south side, do not repair the one that is out.

R. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Ruschmeier moved and Turnquist seconded approving the Commercial Club and Fire Department 2018 Liquor License. The motion carried, unanimously. 4/0

2. Council discussed the possibility of pay scale for employees and requested surrounding communities' or cities of same size wages/healthcare reimbursement and to include the other part time employees.

3. Turnquist brought up Broadband contract; look at having the contract updated.

S. ADJOURNMENT: Turnquist moved and Ruschmeier seconded to adjourn meeting at 8:40 PM. The motion carried, unanimously. 4/0

Respectfully Submitted, _____ Twyla Menth, City Clerk-Treasurer