

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES – OCTOBER 2, 2018

A CALL TO ORDER: The Regular City Council meeting was held October 2, 2018 in the city council room of the New Germany City Hall. Mayor Van Lith called the Council 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 were: Tamara Polzin, Mike Bullis, Pat Devine, Paul David, Mark Fredrickson all with District #110, Beth Elliot with Stantec, Fire Chief Dan Ruschmeier.

B. CITIZEN COMMENT: No comments.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Jaeger moved and Turnquist seconded approving the agenda. The motion carried, unanimously. 5/0

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Turnquist moved and Jaeger seconded approval of the September 18, 2018 minutes. The motion carried, unanimously. 5/0

E. SHERIFFS REPORT: Officer Stahlke delivered blight letters.

F. FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

- Chief Ruschmeier reported they received a DNR grant in the amount of \$2292; matching funds grant for turnout gear. They will be purchasing two more turnout gear for fire fighters.
- Fire training opportunity – they will be doing practice burn on the old farm house at the feed center located on the northeast side of highway 7/33.
- Dan explained the Fire Dept's need of a battle fogger (smoke machine); cost is about \$1,121.60 comes with case and the fluid. Would be great if they had it prior to the training burn, funds in the budget for this purchase. Turnquist moved and Jaeger seconded the purchase of the fogger for the Fire Department. The motion carried, unanimously. 5/0
- Fire Department responded to a large shed fire last Wednesday; 900 round bales in a shed. The call was at 5 AM and they returned at about 5 PM; crew of 14 fire fighters and over 300,00 gallons of water used on the fire.

G. TREASURE REPORT:

- The Treasury report noted that the General fund balance was \$1,429,080.75, which includes the CD's balance of \$48,880.26. Jaeger moved and Ruschmeier seconded approval of the Treasure report. The motion carried, unanimously. 5/0

H. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: Turnquist moved and Jaeger seconded approving the claims in the amount of \$39,095.68. The motion carried, unanimously. 5/0

I. WATER SEWER REPORT: No report.

J. ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

1. School district 110 representatives were present to discuss the 2019 Operating levy that will be voted on November 6. Devine thanked the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to come and talk about the proposed operating levy that is much needed for the Waconia School district. Devine mentioned last time he was here was to watch The Outlaws music performance. Devine introduced the representatives that were present; Principal Mark Fredrickson, School Board member Mike Bullis and Tamara Polzin and IT support Paul David. Devine noted this his 5th year at Waconia 110 and many things have happened in the five years; new elementary and high school campus, many new fields, almost all of the buildings have had some type of renovation. This was all done through the building bond money which can only be used for buildings. Stadium is almost completed or should be completed within the next 10 days explained Devine. Devine noted there is allot more space from when he first came to 110. Paul David prepared a video for the Mayor and Council to view. Discussion continued on the referendum; 2014 was a 75 million referendum. The district did a survey last April on the community support of a referendum explained Bullis. Devine also informed Council that Waconia school district falls in the bottom 1% for State aid; 328 out of 331. The district would like to keep the great programs they have and according to US News; Waconia was rated as the 4th out of 100 schools in MN. They are very proud of this and want to continue the trend. Bullis explained during the April phone survey, random people were called; the most amount they could ask for is approximately \$23 a month on a \$300,000

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home. They are only asking for the minimum of what is needed not anything extra. The last operating levy was 11 years ago; 4 years ago, was the building levy. There are many factors that play into this such as growth and if there are children accompanying the growth, many moving parts. Bullis stated in 1991 there was 1441 kids in 110 districts, today there are over 4,000, this levy would go towards teachers, equipment, and classroom needs. This is a lean budget and when doing their audit, it is shown to them the administration is under staffed; they are hiring younger teachers as they start at a lower rate commented Devine. Jaeger asked questions on what they have done for the security of the schools and children; Devine explained all doors are locked except the main, you would buzz into the office and be seen on camera, explain your purpose and then be let in and you have to sign in/out. They have worked with a consultant who was at Columbine when the disaster happened and has been involved with almost all of the school shooting incidents. They feel very fortunate to have this individual on board at Waconia and of course they work with the local authorities for improvements and crisis training. One of their main concerns is the safety of the children and staff and a safe environment for all but still want a welcome feeling explained Devine. On a closing note Bullis mentioned years ago there was only a few running for the school board this year there are 4 seats and 12 running and remember to get out and vote on November 6 and vote yes. Bullis gave a quick story on cell phone policies and how other schools are lacking on this policy and Waconia has a great policy in place and it is working; cell phones are very disruptive in classrooms, none of the schools hold a candle to Waconia, Bullis is very proud to represent district 110. Mayor Van Lith & Council thanked them all for attending.

2. Will address after J3.

3. Beth Elliot was present with Stantec to discuss the City Planner services they are proposing to bring New Germany. Turnquist gave an overview of the Planning Commission City Planner interviews; interviewed three firms Bolton and Menk, SEH, and Stantec. PC compared all three firms on the same scoring process; planning fees, billing, experience and general overview of each firm. PC felt by interviewing they also had the opportunity to get a feel for each firm. Turnquist stated that Stantec scored the highest level and the PC is recommending Stantec for the New Germany City Planner. Turnquist also noted Stantec would be traveling further and this was also looked at in comparison to the time it would take a SR Planner to possible answer questions verses a JR Planner to research. The traveling side Stantec was the only one that offered skyping or whatever needs to avoid traveling costs, they were the only firm that proposed other options to keep the costs lower explained Turnquist. Elliot explained a Sr Planner may cost more but they can figure out things much faster than a JR Planner and so much of everything can be done electronically, skype, phone and they do not envision allot of traveling unless it is needed. Stantec wants to provide the best services they can for New Germany and they will work with the City Administrator, Council, Mayor, however the City would like to set it up. Stantec also likes to set a budget and when it appears the budget is close they will notify the city and plans can be made accordingly. Bolton and Menk had the lowest hourly rate but when figuring the traveling and other fees it is about the same rate as Stantec explained Turnquist. Turnquist noted they asked each firm the same questions. Elliot went through other cities they represent in the area and explained that all zoning codes of cities are different but they are all guided by a state statue. Stantec would supply a master service agreement with task order and if any complications you are always notified, you will always see notes on the work progress. Elliot explained they always work with the city and when a developer is involved more is passed onto the developer but the goal is they always want what is best for the city. Stantec goal is to provide the city with the best services they can and have the city's best interest. Ruschmeier moved and Jaeger seconded the Planning Commission recommendation of Stantec for the City of new Germany's City Planner. The motion carried, unanimously. 5/0

2. Council has now moved back to J2. Council had a discussion on the Jaguar Franchise agreement. Council also noted a punch list of repairs that need to be addressed by Crown Underground; Clerk will make note of and send to Jaguar and Crown. Franchise agreement – Jaguar does not want the \$10,000 performance bond which is assurance that the project is completed. Jaguar will provide the construction bond of \$50,000 and the required insurance. Council had discussion of the bond and the need of the Right of Way Ordinance. The Franchise agreement allows Jaguar to sell video services; they can sell phone and TV without the contract. Council continued discussion and felt that more options are definitely needed for the residents of New Germany.

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Turnquist moved and Hartwig seconded approving the Jaguar Franchise Agreement without the \$10,000 performance bond. The motion carried, unanimously. 5/0

Van Lith – yay

Jaeger- yay

Turnquist- yay

Ruschmeier-yay

Hartwig-yay

4. Trophy Lakes will be tabled until the October 16 meeting; memo from the attorney was handed out to Council for review.

K. BUILDING PERMIT UPDATE: None to report at this time.

L. COMPLAINT LOG: Working on Blight issues in the city.

M. PW REPORT: Van Lith had nothing more to report at this time.

N. PARKS REPORT: Commercial Club report was on table for anyone to review.

O. MAYORS REPORT: No report.

P. CLERKS REPORT: Discussion on Budget meeting in October; will be October 23, 2018, 7 PM. Clerk explained Ehlers can have everything put together for final levy numbers and be present at the December 4 Truth and Taxation meeting to answer questions from residents.

Q. OLD BUSINESS: Clerk received information on T-Road Alley and a quote from the City Attorney on the dedication fees; Council had a discussion on the options. Turnquist moved and Jaeger seconded to proceed forward with dedication of the T-Road Alley. The motion carried, unanimously. 5/0

R. NEW BUSINESS: None at this time.

S. ADJOURNMENT: Jaeger moved and Hartwig seconded to adjourn meeting at 8:22 PM. The motion carried, unanimously. 5/0

Respectfully Submitted, _____ Twyla Menth, City Clerk-Treasurer