

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES – DECEMBER 19, 2017

A. CALL TO ORDER: The Regular City Council meeting was held on December 19, 2017 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. Absent were Cathy Ruschmeier, and Nick Hartwig. Others present were: City Clerk – Twyla Menth. Audience members present were: Karen Cavett with Short Elliot Hendrickson.

B. CITIZEN COMMENT:

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Turnquist moved and Jaeger seconded approving the agenda. The motion carried. 3/0

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Jaeger moved and Turnquist seconded approval of the December 5, 2017 minutes. The motion carried, all ayes. 3/0

E. SHERIFFS REPORT: Monthly report was reviewed.

F. FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Van Lith reported that Jacob Kemnitz has completed his agility.

Van Lith reported the Fire Department had training on Narcan (naloxone) which is the Opioid antidote treatment; Council had brief discussion on liability issues if any.

G. TREASURE REPORT: The Treasury report noted that the General fund balance was \$1,610,740.67, which includes the CD's balance of \$48,284.24. Upcoming Bond payments \$237,540.00 on January 1, 2018 and the next payment is February 2 \$152,576.89; monthly bank reconciliation was included. Turnquist moved and Jaeger seconded approval of the Treasure report. The motion carried, all ayes. 3/0

H. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: Jaeger moved and Turnquist seconded to approve the claims in the amount of \$16,780.47. The motion carried, all ayes. 3/0

I. WATER SEWER REPORT: Lee Ortloff gave Karen a tour of the Waste Water Ponds and Water Treatment Facility today.

J. ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

1. Karen Cavett with Hendrickson Short Elliot was present to discuss with Council the Waste Water Ponds. Karen informed Council of her background with water and sewer; 28 years of experience, 7 years with SEH. Karen was doing most of her work in large cities and is now doing more rural and smaller cities and that really is her passion. Lee, Twyla and Karen have gone through many of the old documents and history of the ponds. Karen has been researching the Waste Water Plant proposal and the fees that went into this project. Karen would like to continue researching and see if there is anyway some of these funds can come back to the City since Met Council seems not to be an option at this time. Karen proceeded to go through her hand out on the current situation of the ponds. Karen's preliminary review is ponds appear to be at capacity; either need to increase the pond's capacity or prove flow to the ponds have been decreased (reduced I/I). Effluent pipe on secondary pond is at bottom of pond, if chemicals are added to settle solids prior to discharge, the system will still be likely be pulling solids (still have high phosphorus levels). At this time trading with another City on phosphorus levels may be the best option at this present time (most cost effective). In the primary pond the effluent pipe is 1 foot from the bottom of the pond. The recommended pond effluent draws off pipe elevation: 2 feet off bottom of a primary and secondary ponds to allow solids to settle to the bottom and the clear water above to be decanted/discharged. It is believed that there are approximately 2 feet of solids in the primary pond. If so then the solids will be transferred from the primary to the secondary with transfer of decant/discharge water. In Karen's opinion it is time to have the 1972 built ponds dredged and the pipes repositioned. The ponds have never been dredged since they were built. The City continue working on the I/I issue; new Ordinance is being presented tonight. Karen will start the pond permit after the Holidays and Council should look to approve in February as outlined in proposal. Karen will also continue researching the funds and possible set up meeting with Met Council to discuss. Council does not want to be part of Met Council; water/sewer rates are already high here, cannot afford more increases or a mechanical plant. Council also had a brief discussion on irrigation options.

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES – DECEMBER 19, 2017

Turnquist moved and Jaeger seconded approving Short Elliot Hendrickson Agreement for Professional Services contract for the NPDES Permit; shall not exceed \$2,000. The motion carried. All ayes. 3/0

2. Turnquist moved and Jaeger seconded approving Resolution 2017-17, A Resolution Adopting Year 2018 General Fund Operating Budget for the City of New Germany. The motion carried, all ayes. 3/0

3. Jaeger moved and Turnquist seconded approving Resolution 2017-18, A Resolution Adopting Year 2018 Levy for the City of New Germany. The motion carried. All ayes. 3/0

4. Jaeger moved and Turnquist seconded approving Resolution 2017-19, A Resolution Approving the 2018 Meeting Schedule. The motion carried, all ayes. 3/0

5. Turnquist moved and Jaeger seconded approving Resolution 2017-20, A Resolution Transferring Funds. The motion carried. All ayes. 3/0

6. Jaeger moved and Turnquist seconded to approving Resolution 2017-21, A Resolution Transferring Fire Department Year End Capital Funds. The motion carried. All ayes. 3/0

7. Jaeger moved and Turnquist seconded approving Resolution 2017-22, A Resolution in Support of Funding for Trunk Highway 5 through Corridors of Commerce Program. The motion carried. All ayes. 3/0

K. BUILDING PERMIT UPDATE: no building permit update.

L. COMPLAINT LOG: no complaints at this time.

M. PW REPORT: Van Lith reported possible snow fall coming; everything is fueled and ready.

N. PARKS REPORT: Nothing to report at this time.

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

P. CLERKS REPORT:

The second half of LGA should be here on December 26, 2017; \$8,717.

Insurance dividend check was received \$1,813; \$813 more than anticipated.

Eric Roepke thought the insurance coverage for PIO (property in open) was sufficient.

Gerald Roepke fixed the water softener in office closet; was leaking water all over. Gerald also reported the softener in the basement is obsolete and is nonfunctional; \$1,000 for new softener with installation.

John Maetzold's verbal quote to replace and install the back door of hall is \$2,000 maximum; door has been found open several occasions, does not shut. Clerk listed what was available in the 2017 budget for these repairs.

Ordered new computer monitor as current one has been malfunctioning.

Randy Lehs reported the County has approved the generator for the Fiber Optic room and Hall; Randy will keep us informed as everything moves forward.

Q. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Turnquist presented Ordinance 101A and proposed changes as recommended by Planning Commission. Van Lith moved and Jaeger seconded approving Ordinance 101 A. The motion carried, All ayes. 3/0

2. Jaeger moved and Turnquist seconded approving the Summary of Ordinance 101A for publication in the Herald Journal. The motion carried. All ayes. 3/0

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES – DECEMBER 19, 2017

R. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Council discussed the repairs that are needed; softener and back door. Jaeger moved and Turnquist seconded approving to use 2017 funds for the following projects; new softener and installation \$1,000 and new back door on Hall with installation not to exceed \$2,000. The motion carried. All ayes. 3/0

S. ADJOURNMENT: Turnquist moved and Jaeger seconded to adjourn meeting at 8:00 PM. The motion carried, all ayes. 3/0

Respectfully Submitted, _____ Twyla Menth, City Clerk-Treasurer