

CITY OF NEW GERMANY COUNCIL MINUTES

FEBRUARY 7, 2018 7:00 PM

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor, VanLith. Present were Mayor VanLith, Shirley Jaeger, Ty Turnquist, Cathy Ruschmeier, (7:02PM) and Nick Hartwig (7:02PM). Guests present were fire chief, Dan Ruschmeier and Ben Ransom from ReneSola.

Citizens Public Comment: None

Approval of Agenda: On motion by Ty Turnquist, second Shirley Jaeger and passed accepting the Agenda as presented.

Approval of Minutes: On motion by Ty Turnquist, second Shirley Jaeger and passed accepting the Minutes as printed.

Sheriff's Report: Sheriff's Report was printed and available for Council to peruse. No comments or other items on sheriff's report.

Fire Department Report: Chief Ruschmeier reported that two new people are interested in becoming firefighters. They are Dan DeRusha living at 430 Park St E. and Dustin O'Brien living at 330 Lincoln Ave. Dustin is already fully trained and he works in house at Mayer Lumber so would be available for daytime calls. If these two gentlemen meet all requirements, the fire department roster would then be full at twenty-eight members. Dan had an individual here this past Saturday from "sentence to serve" waxing trucks, he will use him again to help out with some other tasks for the fire department. Was noted that firefighter, Clayton Quaas has been cleared by doctors to return to active duty with the fire department. City attorney recommends that he should go through agility test again, this was done last night. Fire Department will take it slow.

Treasurer's Report: Report showed a balance of \$1,240,318.24 including C.D.'s. On motion by Cathy Ruschmeier, second Ty Turnquist and passed accepting the Treasurer's Report as printed.

Approval of Claims: On Motion by Ty Turnquist, second Cathy Ruschmeier and passed approving the paying of claims for the month.

Sewer Water Report: City Clerk has been sending out Ordinance 101 to homes that she knows are on the market to sell. One home has failed compliance and will be putting money into escrow to do repairs in the spring of 2018. The city of Waverly supplied a sewer service compliance form to city clerk. She made some minor changes to fit our city. Councilman, Turnquist reviewed the document so this is the form the city will now be using. We had conference calls with MPCA in January and are still working on the pond permit compliance schedule. Lee and city clerk have been working on other reports that are due in February. People Service has transferred Dallas Roggemann from Spring Lake Park to Winsted and he will now be assigned to New Germany. The entire light receptacle on the outside of the Water Treatment building does not work. Eric is looking into a new receptacle. Question was raised do we need a third light there as there are two working lights by the doors.

Ben Ransom with ReneSola was again present to touch base with the Council in regard to signing up for a solar subscription. Construction will begin on the project just outside of Winsted this spring. Was noted

that Xcel Energy has raised their rates by about 2% since the chart was sent out with the savings. ReneSola would possibly be willing to pay for the attorney fees to check over the agreement if we choose to sign up for a subscription. Question was raised, why the long term agreement? This is the length of warranty on the equipment and also the length of their agreement with Xcel Energy. We could terminate the subscription should we choose to, however, there would be fees connected to this.

A Resolution 2018-06 was presented. This Resolution is a grant application for \$7500.00 in connection with repairs needed at the sewer ponds. On motion by Ty Turnquist, second Cathy Ruschmeier and passed accepting the Resolution 2018-06.

There were no comments on the 2018-2023 Draft Road and Bridge Construction Plan.

There were no new building permits to report. However, the clerk did indicate that she has voided the check to Mayer Lumber for \$2000.00 for the back door replacement. Maetzold's were able to repair the door instead of replacing it. She will issue a new check once she receives the repair bill.

Complaint Log: No new complaints to report. The Mayor reminded the Council that in order for a complaint to be followed up on, it must be in writing, a verbal complaint is not valid.

Public Works: Steve noted that he has recently had the fuel tanks filled.

Parks Report: The Commercial Club will tentatively be hosting the Johnny Cash Tribute band on May 19. This will be a one year anniversary of the band. Commercial Club will meet on February 26 to discuss hosting the band in May. Was noted that the fire department would like a list of events that the Commercial Club is hosting for the upcoming year when they are using the hall. This is so the fire department knows when the hall will be in use by this organization.

Mayor's Report: Question was raised do we need a motion to close the city office when the clerk is on vacation or on a requested day off. After discussion, was felt that if the Council has approved the clerk's time off, then it is understood the office will be closed. Clerk has always posted office closings on the front door or if a preplanned vacation also states in the newsletter.

The clerk has met with the auditor recently, the auditor will be giving her report at the March 20 council meeting.

On motion by Ty Turnquist, second Cathy Ruschmeier and passed adjourning the meeting at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Minutes taken by Shirley Jaeger in the absence of city clerk.

