

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES – JUNE 7, 2016

- A. CALL TO ORDER: The Regular City Council meeting was held on June 7, 2016 in the upper level of the New Germany City Hall. Mayor Van Lith called the meeting to order at 7:39 p.m., those present were: Mayor Van Lith, Councilpersons Ty Turnquist, Shirley Jaeger, and Nick Hartwig, and Cathy Ruschmeier. Others present were: City Clerk – Twyla Menth. Audience members present were: Eric Roepke, Fire Chief Dan Ruschmeier, and Herald Journal.
- B. CITIZEN COMMENT: There were no additional comments from the audience.
- C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Addition of J4 Resolution 2016-08. Jaeger moved and Ruschmeier approved agenda with additions. The motion carried, all in favor.
- D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Jaeger moved and Turnquist seconded approval of the May 17, 2016 minutes. The motion carried, all in favor.
- E. SHERIFFS REPORT: Nothing at this time.
- F. FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Chief Ruschmeier announced they received a grant from Center Point for \$2,350.00. They will be putting towards turn out gear \$4582.93, for the two newest members; Cole Midthun and Clayton Quaas. They will do an award presentation on 6/21 or 7/5. Ruschmeier would like Council's approval to order turn out gear. Jaeger moved and Turnquist seconded approval of the turnout gear equipment. The motion carried, all in favor. Ruschmeier also let Council know they will be ordering more hose and the funds are in the budget for this purchase. Ruschmeier explained the Fire Department carbon monoxide detector equipment is not working properly, old technology. The FD would like to purchase a 4 way gas detector; the recommendation is to purchase the two year throw away model. They use this when they get a call for a gas leak and this is how they detect gas leaks. The new unit will also be with them at all times, and they will know immediately if there is an issue; the current one does not detect this way. Cost of the new unit is \$1,002.45; this is needed before the heating season returns. Jaeger moved and Turnquist seconded approving the purchase of the gas detecting unit. The motion carried, all in favor.
FD received a donated bus and they will be doing bus extraction training on June 20.
FD and Council discussed what the FD will be bringing to the Camden Township meeting on June 9 for their 2017 contract.
- G. TREASURE REPORT: The Treasury report noted that the General fund balance was \$847,466.77. The bond account is \$1,045.00 and the CD's total \$47,657.77 the total for all accounts is \$896,169.54. Turnquist moved and Ruschmeier seconded accepting treasure report as printed. The motion carried, all in favor.
- H. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: Turnquist moved and Jaeger seconded to approve the claims in the amount of \$20,964.23. The motion carried, all in favor.
- I. WATER SEWER REPORT: Nothing at this time.
- J. 1. Ruschmeier moved and Turnquist seconded tabling discussion on Solar ordinance and rezoning until June 21 meeting. The motion carried, all in favor.
2. Turnquist moved and Ruschmeier seconded the de-obligation of funds from USDA bond. The motion carried, all in favor.
3. Resolution 2016-07 Resolution to Participate in the MN Greenstep Cities Program. Jaeger moved and Ruschmeier approved Resolution 2016-07. The motion carried, all in favor.
4. Resolution 2016-08 Accepting Gambling Funds. Jaeger moved and Turnquist seconded approving Resolution 2016-08 Accepting Gambling funds for FD computer malfunction of \$62.50. The motion carried, all in favor.

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K. BUILDING PERMIT UPDATE: Egress window, remodel, re roof. Council had a brief discussion on MN Inboard fence permit.

L. COMPLAINT LOG: Nothing to report.

M. PW REPORT: Van Lith reported he will need to purchase a new weed whip but just has not had time to get to farm supply.
Rick Todd has passed all background checks and will start working according to the hours outlined in job description.

N. PARKS REPORT: Eric Roepke reported on the Press box and Horstman has the prints completed. Horstman will be bringing to Mayer Lumber to get the prices on project; they will have this information at the next Council meeting. Mayor Van Lith and Roepke talked about possible leaky valve in ball field. Roepke and Council had discussion of fence by tennis court and tennis court. Invite Mark Stahlke to next meeting as he has some ideas for that area. Jaeger brought up if anyone would like to do anything with horse shoe area they (Commercial Club) would pay for the materials if someone would donate labor.

O. MAYORS REPORT: Nothing at this time.

P. CLERKS REPORT: Clerk reported for fall clean up electronics will need to be hauled to Chaska; too expensive to hire another semi out of Wisconsin.
Builder would like to know if it is possible to receive any discounts on WAC/SAC fees if he would build three homes in Black Forest area, we are higher than Mayer. Council had a discussion and Council agreed to give a discount only on the WAC/SAC fees not the other fees. Turnquist moved and Jaeger seconded to give Loomis Brothers a discount on the WAC/SAC fees only and homes are to be constructed this year. The motion carried, all in favor.

Q. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Clerk recalls reading something regarding sump pumps in County agreement; will review and let Council know. Council wants to continue forward on sump pump issue.
2. Met Council has their final forecast numbers updated, Council reviewed information.

R. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Council discussed the feedback from residents at the Public Hearing earlier tonight. Council felt that 95% of the people that surround the proposed solar project are not in favor of it, the rest either were not aware of the hearing or just do not care. Hartwig mentioned only about 15% of the city showed up. Ruschmeier remains neutral but also worries about the possibility of decreasing property values. Council had a discussion of apartment complexes verses solar project; not the ideal spot, aesthetics, middle of town were some of the comments. Turnquist feels the ordinance still needs to be changed but maybe the retail/wholesale or Ag land needs more review. Turnquist mentioned to Council that he has done his own research on decreasing property values and he cannot find any evidence showing any decrease values.

S. ADJOURNMENT: Turnquist moved and Ruschmeier seconded to adjourn meeting at 8:40 PM. The motion carried, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted, _____ Twyla Menth, City Clerk