

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES – MARCH 21, 2017

- A. CALL TO ORDER: The Regular City Council meeting was held on March 21, 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 Ty Turnquist, Shirley Jaeger, absent were: Cathy Ruschmeier, and Nick Hartwig. Others present were: City Clerk – Twyla Menth, Dan Ruschmeier Fire Chief. Audience members present were: Linus Latzig, Lori Goebel, Julie Aarsvold and Sara Beavers with Oberloh and Associates Ltd.
- B. CITIZEN COMMENT: Linus Latzig and Lori Goebel explained the sewer situation at their residence 203 State Avenue S; tree roots and in their opinion they are coming from the tree on the County property. Council advised them this is something they will need to follow up with the County, not the City; they were provided a contact number for the County. Goebel also requested the potholes be filled in entrance to Park area.
- C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Jaeger moved and Turnquist seconded approval of the agenda with the addition of the City Auditor Sara Beavers. The motion carried, all were in favor.
- D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Turnquist moved and Jaeger seconded approval of the March 7, 2017 minutes. The motion carried, all were in favor.
- E. SHERIFFS REPORT: Monthly Sheriff report was included.
- F. FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Chief Ruschmeier was present and handed out information in regards to the Thermo Imager the Fire Department has been researching. After careful consideration Chief Ruschmeier is recommending the Flir K 33 model; they also voted at Fire Department meeting and all were in favor of the simplicity of this model. The price is \$6980 and it includes two models, chargers and batteries, Jefferson is the company that they would purchase the equipment from. Fire Department will either be using budgeted funds or will need to pull from their capital fund. The Thermo Imager they are using now is 13 years old and does not always work correctly. Jaeger moved and Turnquist second the recommendation of the Fire Department to purchase the Flir K 33 for \$6980.00. The motion carried, all were in favor.
Fire Chief reported they had a really good training last night, many Fire Fighters were present for this training.
- G. TREASURE REPORT: The Treasury report noted that the General fund balance was \$1,078,984.66, which includes the CD's balance of \$47,918.48. Jaeger moved and Turnquist seconded approval of the Treasure report. The motion carried, all were in favor.
- H. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: Turnquist moved and Jaeger seconded to approve the claims in the amount of \$7,100.83. The motion carried, all were in favor.
- I. WATER SEWER REPORT: Mayor Van Lith noted the sewer back up at 203 State Avenue S.
- J. Sara Beavers with Oberloh and Associates Ltd (City Auditor) was present to present the 2016 financial audit. Sara went through the State and IRS rules for purchasing apparel and turn out gear. Sara thought it would be best for the City to make sure the City or Fire Department personnel policy has verbiage in to address the issue. Sara also noted that regular jackets, hats would come out of the Relief funds not the Fire Department. Sara also explained there has been a new release on reimbursements; they have to be done in a timely manner. Sara noted that the IRS rules can be complicated to understand, please ask if you have any questions. Sara went through the 2016 Audit with Council; Council is moving in the right direction compared to previous years. Turnquist moved and Jaeger seconded approval of the 2016 Financial Audit report prepared by Oberloh and Associates. The motion carried, all were in favor.
Council and Chief Ruschmeier had a discussion on how to move forward with Personnel Policy; all would be compliant once verbiage is implemented and a line item into the 2018 budget process.
1. Jaeger moved and Turnquist second approval of the Commercial Club/Fire Department 2017 liquor license. The motion carried, all were in favor.

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- K. BUILDING PERMIT UPDATE: Year to date there are 5 homes being constructed in Black Forest. Retaining wall issue on 150 Hilda with Loomis construction; retaining wall is on Loomis property. Council noted it is a civil issue; Loomis has sent the home owner a letter asking for removal of retaining wall.
- L. COMPLAINT LOG: Resident having neighbor issues; this would be a Sheriff issue not City.
- M. PW REPORT: Mayor Van Lith brought up mowing of the Fellowship Field for Tournament; approximately 1-2 hours of time. Council had a discussion on how to proceed; Fire Department representative will attend Church/Fellowship meeting on April 6.
- N. PARKS REPORT: March 27, 7 PM is the next meeting; quick discussion on Commercial Club minutes.
- O. MAYORS REPORT: Mayor Van Lith did not have anything to report at this time.
- P. CLERKS REPORT: Clay Montgomery recorded the deed for Black Forest Outlot B & C; 2018 the City will not receive the small amount of property tax. Clean up the City Shed before May 20 – joint effort Fire Department, Eric Roepke, and Steve Van Lith and People Service. Discussion on what could be stored in the UFC building once contract is complete. County made changes to contract as suggested by City Attorney, draft is back to City Attorney; should be complete by next meeting.
- Q. OLD BUSINESS:
1. Discussed already.
 2. The last I and I is scheduled for tomorrow AM. Once they are all completed we will send out another letter to the non compliant systems for re-inspection and a compliant deadline.
 3. Need to schedule a date to complete job descriptions, table until new meeting date or next meeting.
- R. NEW BUSINESS:
1. Turnquist gave a briefing on the Planning Commission meeting on March 20, 2017. Fred Radde was present at the meeting to discuss the possibilities of being annexed into the City of New Germany. This annexation would be considered without abutting and not any water and sewer connection as of this time; 3-5 years in the future. Radde explained the purchaser of property would be looking at building expansion in the future, the one building would need a sprinkler system and at that time is when City water would be needed. The City would need to meet with Hollywood Township to see what their status is on the annexation. The City has always worked well with Hollywood Township and wants to maintain as good neighbors. Turnquist and fellow Planning Commission members felt this was too large of an issue and it needs to have Council input. Dean with Resource Strategies also suggested having the City Attorney prepare an outline of suggestions. Council had a discussion and decided they are not opposed and decided the other Council members need to be present and would like to discuss as a whole group. Council did agree the next step would be to talk to the Township and the pond issue may also need consideration. The Council members present agreed the City has no funds and would not put any funds towards water and sewer extension, or annexation fees. Council decided to table until all Council members are present. Other PC updates consisted of Ordinance 101 and 85 and were tabled until next meeting. Next PC meeting is April 24, 6 PM.
- S. ADJOURNMENT: Van Lith moved and Turnquist seconded to adjourn meeting at 8:57 PM. The motion carried, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted, _____ Twyla Menth, City Clerk