

## CITY COUNCIL MINUTES – MARCH 7, 2017

A CALL TO ORDER: The Regular City Council meeting was held on March 7, 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, Cathy Ruschmeier, and Nick Hartwig. Others present were: City Clerk – Twyla Menth. Audience members present were: Jim Ische, Lyndon Robjent, and David Hemze with Carver County.

B. CITIZEN COMMENT: There were no additional comments from the audience.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Jaeger moved and Turnquist seconded approval of the agenda. The motion carried, all were in favor.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Jaeger moved and Turnquist seconded approval of the February 21, 2017 minutes. The motion carried, all were in favor.

E. SHERIFFS REPORT: Nothing at this time.

F. FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Nothing at this time.

G. TREASURE REPORT: The Treasury report noted that the General fund balance was \$1,072,740.55, which includes the CD's balance of \$47,918.48, bank statement was included. Ruschmeier moved and Turnquist seconded approval of the Treasury report. The motion carried, all were in favor.

H. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: Jaeger moved and Ruschmeier seconded to approve the claims in the amount of \$35,341.82. The motion carried, all were in favor.

I. WATER SEWER REPORT: Mayor Van Lith and Lee Ortloff will attempt dye testing when weather warms up.

J. 1. Commissioner Ische, David Hemze and Lyndon Robjent were present to discuss the proposed wheelage (\$10) and sales tax (.05) increase for Carver County roads and bridges. Commissioner Ische noted he was happy to be here and explained on the roadways in the County. There are 26 counties with sales tax or transit tax, 50 with wheelage tax noted Ische. They are here to get input from Mayor and Council members. Robjent explained the 2 major changes that are taking place in the roadway grant funds; there is nothing in the 20 year MN Dot plan on improving roads in Carver County, no plans of adding lanes. Met Council grant process has also changed, now there is a social equity scoring process which changed the rules for receiving federal funds. Carver County submitted for 11 projects and received 0, eliminated federal money through Met Council, there is possible some funding for State roadways. Robjent went through the maps of the roadways in Carver County and the longevity of the roads. Overall the grant opportunities for County roads are dwindling fast noted Robjent. Hemze stated he does not like putting Commissioners in a position to take care of other projects as this would also be funding state roads. This is a tough call for the board but these issues have to be addressed. This is a tough decision but we need to take care of the roadways we currently have in Carver County. March 28 the Commissioners will be having a work session on these topics. Carver County board would have control over these taxes, they are collected in the same current manner but then distributed to the County, it can be turned on and off; wheelage tax can be considered more of a user fee. This proposed .05 sales tax increase would generate approximately 3.5 million a year and the proposed wheelage increase of \$10 would generate 880,000 per year, this all adds up over time. Council and County representatives had discussion; in the end of discussion Ische stated there are 270 miles of County roads and 168 miles in District 5, new schools which bring more need for roads to these areas and increases the need for extra funding. Robjent explained the big change it is to be 50% outside money / 50% County money not anymore; highway 101 bridge project was 18 million in bonds, MN Dot has no plans of coming to Carver County. Council gave their opinions of being a rural community on the western end of the County; the cities that are closer to the metro area or the eastern core are the ones that will be benefiting from this, not the City of New Germany. In this area if a tax increase happens they will go to the next County, it is just the way it is in this area, Council continued discussion. Mayor Van Lith stated he understands and they are facing tough decisions such as this City did in years past with a failing infrastructure; Jaeger, Ruschmeier and Hartwig also voiced their concerns. Ische, Hemze and Robjent

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stressed to Council the importance of taking care of the roadways we have and the wheelage tax would help in preservation of roadways. Council thanked all for attending and will take this information into consideration Hemze noted that not saying anything is okay too. Council and County had a quick discussion on roundabouts. After County left Council discussed the proposal; no resolution was presented.

K. BUILDING PERMIT UPDATE: Patio home in Black Forest.

L. COMPLAINT LOG:

410 State Avenue has stated the generator is not from their address; they have had a semi running through the night twice this year. Will clean up parts in yard and not bring dirt/mud on street. Vehicles need to be parked on crush rock.

Park Street – construction traffic is leaving debris on street; contact and inform them to clean up street. New house on State has no erosion control to keep dirt back from flowing into storm water/street.

M. PW REPORT: Nothing at this time.

N. PARKS REPORT: Contact Marty at County to get the setbacks and move forward with a sign plan.

O. MAYORS REPORT: Mayor Van Lith did not have anything to report at this time.

P. CLERKS REPORT: National Night Out we can rent the smoke house for \$75; Chief Ruschmeier will get house and return house.

Office will be closed; attending MCFOA conference March 15 - 16.

Q. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Council had discussion on the Camden township fire contract. Turnquist moved and Jaeger seconded to move forward with e Camden Township 2018 Fire contract with the payment dates of June 15 and December 15, 2018 and in the future look at rewording contract with a safety clause implemented. The motion carried, all were in favor.

2. We are down to around 15 homes left on I & I inspections; March 9 is the deadline date. Billing will not be until the 20-21 of March; any home owners who are not compliant by billing date will receive the fine of \$100. When inspections are complete and closed the final process will be a letter with complaint date and re inspection of systems.

R. NEW BUSINESS: Council reviewed the request from the City of Shakopee in regards to support for additional river road crossing; Council commented if they are not supporting Carver County they cannot consider supporting Shakopee.

S. ADJOURNMENT: Jaeger moved and Turnquist seconded to adjourn meeting at 8:35 PM. The motion carried, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted, \_\_\_\_\_ Twyla Menth, City Clerk