

## CITY COUNCIL MINUTES – NOVEMBER 20, 2018

A CALL TO ORDER: The Regular City Council meeting was held November 20, 2018 in the city council room of the New Germany City Hall. Mayor Van Lith called the Council meeting to order at 6:41 p.m., those present were: Mayor Van Lith, Councilpersons Shirley Jaeger, Ty Turnquist (arrived 7:05 p.m.), Cathy Ruschmeier and Nick Hartwig (absent). Others present were: City Clerk – Twyla Menth. Audience members were: Steve Young with the Herald Journal and Joe Lemmerman.

B. CITIZEN COMMENT: No comments.

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

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Jaeger moved and Ruschmeier seconded approval of the November 7, 2018 minutes. The motion carried, unanimously. 3/0

Van Lith moved and Jaeger seconded approval of the November 14, 2018 Special Meeting - Canvas Election results. The motion carried, unanimously. 3/0

E. SHERIFFS REPORT: none at this time.

F. FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

- Van Lith reported the Fire Department has been using the new smoke equipment with fire trainings. They will continue trainings with equipment at the house by highway 7 and 33; great training for the new fire fighters.

G. TREASURE REPORT:

- The Treasury report noted that the General fund balance was \$1,427,553.94, which includes the CD's balance of \$49,013.46. Received MV Agriculture credit \$417.92, refund on the 2018 Police Contract of \$1232.93. Ruschmeier moved and Jaeger seconded approval of the Treasure report. The motion carried, unanimously. 3/0
- Monthly bank statement was reviewed.

H. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: Jaeger moved and Ruschmeier seconded approving the claims in the amount of \$11,052.35. The motion carried, unanimously. 3/0

I. WATER SEWER REPORT: Van Lith reported on the cleaning of the Water Tower that took place on November 20, 2018; McGuire Iron will be completing report of the cleaning and there was a broken part found by McGuire. The broken part is under manufacture warranty and there will be no cost for replacement; everything will be in report from McGuire Iron.

Clerk, Lee Ortloff and Badger representative Lee Martin had a meeting earlier today to discuss replacement options of current water reading handheld unit. Clerk explained the cost for replacing the radio read handheld unit for reading the water meters. The handheld the City currently is using is obsolete and so is the software used to communicate from the handheld to the water/sewer billing software; no support for either of them. There have been 4 replacement units issued since the city's current handheld. We cannot go with the most current handheld as our meter radio heads are non-compliant with a cellular reader and the cell strength needs to be 4g. We are limited to what handheld we can purchase on account of the type of meters we use; Badger is the only company that carries the handheld option compatible with our current meter system. Badger recommends the Trimble Ranger 7 handheld which reads the CE and ME meter models (ours are CE) for \$9500 and the Beacon software needed is \$2200. Monthly billing from Badger is .06 per connection. We have ear marked \$5650 each in water and sewer for this update; will be short but it can be pulled from operating expenses from each of the water and sewer accounts. Ruschmeier moved and Jaeger seconded the purchase of the Trimble Ranger 7 and Beacon software from Badger to perform the water readings for the City of New Germany. The motion carried, unanimously. 3/0

J. ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

1. Council reviewed the information if they were to pay the back taxes of 2016 and 2017 on the 12 non-lake lots of Trophy Lakes; amount due is \$59, 302.65 which \$14,235.65 would go to Carver County and

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the remaining \$45,067.00 would be returned to the City as it is the city portion and special assessments on the lots. 2016, 2017, 2018 delinquent tax amounts are \$83,042.85, \$66,478.55 would be the city portion and the remaining \$16,478.55 would be the county portion. To avoid further delinquent fees, payment would be due by December 31. In the bank abatement agreement where the City has the option to buy all the lots for \$1, also would need to be completed by December 31, 2018. There has been a proposed purchase agreement submitted to the City for all 12 non-lake lots.

If the City would donate the lots to the CDA affordable housing program the city would receive affordable housing points towards the ALHOA (affordable and life housing opportunity amount). Currently the amount the City receives from ALHOA is \$1190 per year. The amount we would receive for the extra points of donating to CDA is unknown.

Estimated the Attorney fees for the process to record the deed if the City does purchase and reviewing the purchase agreement to approximately \$2,000. Joe Lemmerman was present who represents the buyer who purchased Trophy Lakes and also has submitted the proposed purchase agreement for the 12 non-lake lots. Lemmerman let Council know they did meet with the HOA and they seemed very receptive; main concern was they could still water ski.

Van Lith moved and Ruschmeier seconded to send the purchase agreement to the City Attorney to review and request information back by the December 4 meeting. The motion carried, unanimously. 3/0

2. Council previously chose Stantec as their new City Planner; they have sent the master service agreement. Ruschmeier moved and Jaeger seconded approving Stantec's master agreement for the City Planner of New Germany. The motion carried, unanimously. 3/0

K. BUILDING PERMIT UPDATE: none at this time.

L. COMPLAINT LOG: Owner of 480 Park Street East would like the city to proceed forward with the process of removing the debris outside that is a current renter's; owner has had no luck. This property has been sent letters twice in 6 months for blight issues. Owner also informed the city that the unlicensed vehicle is also the renters. Council had a discussion as to Ordinance 91 and the next step. Ruschmeier moved and Van Lith seconded to move forward with the City Attorney on the blight issue at 480 Park Street E. The motion carried, unanimously. 3/0

M. PUBLIC WORKS: Van Lith reported he needs a new bobcat door; \$1400, cannot operate without the door. Van Lith also picked up a new cutting blade, ordered sand/slat mixture from Henning Excavating. Van Lith mentioned they have a few new fire fighters that may be interested in helping with snow removal or if Van Lith is on vacation or some other reason could not perform the duties needed. Council will leave this up to Van Lith but would need to make sure the proper training has been received to whom he chooses.

Ruschmeier moved and Jaeger seconded purchasing the Bobcat door for \$1400. The motion carried, unanimously. 3/0

N. PARKS REPORT: Breakfast with Santa is December 1, 2018 from 8 – 11 AM., volunteers are welcome.

O. MAYORS REPORT: No report at this time.

P. CITY CLERK REPORT: November 27, 2018 at 6 PM Planning Commission meeting. December 4 is the Truth and Taxation Hearing which Ehlers will be present. December 18 Haila Maze with Bolton and Menk will be present for final Comp Plan stages. I have reached out to several companies for snow operations removal; heard back at this time only from Green Meadows.

Q. OLD BUSINESS: Turnquist was present and reported to Council that he did talk with Camden Township (Bruce) and they would be willing to snow plow Hilda and 62<sup>nd</sup> Street. The minimum at this time is \$60, Bruce would bring up at the next Township meeting if the city would receive a reduced rate. Turnquist will mention to Bruce to get together with Van Lith as to the snow removal plan on Hilda and 62<sup>nd</sup> as the City is very interested.

R. NEW BUSINESS: Dean Aldrich and the Clerk are reviewing the annual insurance; discussion on waiving or not waiving the tort liability insurance. Jaeger moved and Ruschmeier seconded the City of

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New Germany does not waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by Minn. Stat. 466.04. The motion carried, unanimously. 4/0

S. ADJOURNMENT: Ruschmeier moved and Jaeger seconded adjourning the meeting at 7:23 PM. The motion carried, unanimously. 4/0

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