

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 4, 2018

A CALL TO ORDER: The Regular City Council was held September 4, 2018 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 Shirley Jaeger, Ty Turnquist, Cathy Ruschmeier. Others present were: City Clerk – Twyla Menth. Audience members were: Representative Jim Nash, Jeanne Vogt and Shelly Eldridge with Ehlers, Ken Covey, Melanie and Sandy Miller, Fire Chief Dan Ruschmeier, Kristine Anderson with Jaguar.

B. CITIZEN COMMENT: No comments.

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

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Jaeger moved and Turnquist seconded approval of the August 21, 2018 minutes. The motion carried, unanimously. 3/0

E. SHERIFFS REPORT: No report.

F. FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

1. Chief Ruschmeier was present and reported they have received another application to the Fire Department and are in the process of background check. Chief Ruschmeier reported the Ball Tournament was a success; 21 teams, numbers still coming in.

G. TREASURE REPORT:

1. The Treasury report noted that the General fund balance was \$1,449,117.90, which includes the CD's balance of \$48,880.26. Turnquist moved and Jaeger seconded approval of the Treasure report. The motion carried, unanimously. 3/0

H. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: Jaeger moved and Turnquist seconded approving the claims in the amount of \$7,821.33. The motion carried, unanimously. 3/0

I. WATER SEWER REPORT: Jaeger reported her separate drinking water faucet seem to have air. Chief Ruschmeier reported he has experienced low water pressure; check with People Service.

J. ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

1. Jim Nash thanked the Mayor and Council for having him attend the Council meeting. Nash explained why he was not able to attend National Night Out and plans on attending next year. Nash also explained the small city assistance (cities under 5,000) and local government aide; New Germany received \$10,483 Small City Assistance and LGA was \$21,508. Nash also mentioned it was the first for Townships receiving assistance as well. They are working on options for the Ag industry or farmers; they will receive a lower tax rate if local school levy passes; farmers are getting hammered and they need to be protected. Mayor Van Lith explained the wastewater capacity issues and the struggles for a small rural community. Nash stated this city is not alone on these issues there are other ones in Carver County experiencing the same problems; Nash suggested a work shop with him and staff from his office. Nash also noted that things can be changed; he has seen this throughout his 2 terms at state. Nash noted there is a need for rules but they can be amended and changed. Nash reported to Chief Ruschmeier there are national grants for SCBA and trucks. Nash and Clerk will discuss some dates for a workshop.

2. Ehlers presented the updated Financial Management Plan. September 30 is the when the max levy amount is due; can only decrease after this date. Jeanne and Shelly went through the FMP and explained how the fiscal disparities roller coaster impacts the numbers. Ehlers continued going through the reports; discussion on Fire Department vehicle needs. Chief Ruschmeier explained that the vehicle expenses are split three ways; City, Camden and Hollywood. Ehlers will make this update into the FMP. Overall Ehlers had to increase the levy more then what was submitted on account of the fiscal disparities or there would be the increase, decrease roller coaster happening from year to year. This way it stays stable/level and there is no increase and then the following year a decrease and so on. Over all there is an increase of the levy amount but decreasing the percentage. Ehlers stated keep in mind the market values overall are up in existing values, plus new construction. This shows a healthy rebound in the tax

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rate. Council and Ehlers continued discussing the numbers. Turnquist moved and Ruschmeier seconded the max levy of \$421,421.00 for 2019. The motion carried, unanimously. 4/0 (Cathy Ruschmeier present). Council and Ehlers discussed workshop or meeting options. Council will do one more workshop to try and make a few cuts and Ehlers will come for final presentation. Ehlers mentioned we have the utility rate study to review as well.

3. Jaeger moved and Ruschmeier seconded the Truth and Taxation date is December 4, 2018 with the Council meeting. The motion carried, unanimously. 4/0

K. BUILDING PERMIT UPDATE: none as of meeting.

L. COMPLAINT LOG: none as of meeting.

M. PW REPORT:

- Van Lith reported he has not had time to review the snow contract. Jaeger thought is looked pretty straight forward if the City decided to go this way. Keep on the agenda for further review.

N. PARKS REPORT: Waffle breakfast and Halloween will be next events.

O. MAYORS REPORT: Nothing to report at this time.

P. CLERKS REPORT:

- Discussed replacements costs of message board with insurance agent Dean; it was decided \$30,000 on message board will cost approximately \$100 more a year on insurance.
- Discussed People Service amended contract for sewer laterals. Clerk explained the current contract does not include sewer laterals but Lee has been doing them for years. It will cost the City \$55 more per month for the sewer laterals. Ruschmeier moved and Jaeger seconded approving the amended People Service contract to include sewer laterals upon approval from the City Attorney. The motion carried, unanimously. 4/0

Q. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Kristine with Jaguar asked if there were any additional questions pertaining to Jaguar. Public Hearing date is set for September 18 and has been submitted for publication in Herald Journal, posted at City office, Bank and Post office. Kristine explained that MN statue on Right of Way (ROW) of public utilities. Jaguar has done all their research as far as locating ROW; researched at County, GIS, permitting specialist operations has also researched any easements in the City. Kristine also explained there are different types of equipment and she is not the specialist in this area. Kristine also let Council know that Jaguar will be completing all land restorations. In the event of late seeding it may be needed in Spring and assured Council restoration will be completed. Rainfall can also play apart or late in the season and they would then be back in spring for complete restoration. Kristine explained to Council the franchise agreement is needed for video, no franchise agreement is needed for phone or tv only video. Jaguar will be present at the Public Hearing for any questions.

R. NEW BUSINESS:

- Turnquist updated the Council on the last Planning Commission meeting; August 28; PC interviewed two companies for replacing the City Planner as he is retiring. PC would like to interview one more at next meeting on September 25, 2018 @ 6 PM.

S. ADJOURNMENT: Ruschmeier moved and Turnquist seconded to adjourn meeting at 8:19 PM. The motion carried, unanimously. 4/0

Respectfully Submitted, _____ Twyla Menth, City Clerk-Treasurer