

## CITY COUNCIL MINUTES – OCTOBER 18, 2016

A. CALL TO ORDER: The Regular City Council meeting was held on October 18, 2016 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: Fire Chief Dan Ruschmeier, DaNae Henning, Julie Aarsvold and Mike Ford.

B. CITIZEN COMMENT: Mike Ford was present to discuss with Council on the placing of Welcome to New Germany sign. Council and Mike discussed where the sign could be placed; after discussion it was decided it would be more on the Solie property. Mike did want Council to know he has no issues if it is partially on his property. Council also noted that Henning's needs to complete the repairs of Mike's sewer issue.

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

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Jaeger moved and Turnquist second approval of the October 4, 2016 Council minutes, with the correction of Waffle breakfast was on Sunday. The motion carried, all in favor.

E. SHERIFFS REPORT: Nothing to report at this time.

F. FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Chief Ruschmeier reported the new fire fighter; Justin Hecksel is doing well. The Fire Department has been having a few issues with the radios; something to look at upgrading in the future, Chief's conference is next week.

G. TREASURE REPORT: The Treasury report noted that the General fund balance was \$1,175,008.96. This includes the CD account of \$47,657.77. Turnquist moved and Ruschmeier second approving the Treasure report as printed. The motion carried, all in favor.

H. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: Jaeger moved and Turnquist second approving the claims in the amount of \$27,636.87. The motion carried, all in favor.

I. WATER SEWER REPORT: Mike Barthel is back from his medical leave.

J. 1. Council reviewed the correspondence from US Solar and discussed changes. Council decided they will stay with the previous decision of declining solar subscription as they feel there is no history of potential savings, only forecasted numbers.

2. Council reviewed the Water and Sewer plan from Ehlers. Ruschmeier moved and Van Lith second approving the 2017 water and sewer rate increases as in water & sewer analysis from Ehlers. Jaeger's comment was if we continue to see growth the plan would only improve and everything would be revisited to reflect the growth. The motion carried, all in favor.

3. Ridgeview Medical Center (RMC) recommends a space agreement for the Legion Room; this would protect all parties. RMC will look into drafting an agreement for the space and Council can review and make any changes, also have the City Attorney review before signing. Council had a discussion and decided it would be in the City's best interest to continue moving forward with space agreement.

K. BUILDING PERMIT UPDATE: 151 Park Street East – fence.

L. COMPLAINT LOG: Nothing at this time.

M. PW REPORT: Van Lith informed Council the lawn mower belt blew again; had 36 hours on and Lano's is checking on warranty. Council discussed option of purchasing new lawnmower or testing new lawn mowers in spring of 2017 and then make a decision of purchasing. Turnquist brought up I & I and sump pump inspections, October is coming to an end and only a few have scheduled appointments. Turnquist suggestion is to make a flyer and state the \$75 fee may be assessed if non compliant or not having system verified (not making appointment).

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N. PARKS REPORT: Halloween Party is October 29 from 6 – 7:30 PM, adult help is needed.

O. MAYORS REPORT: Nothing at this time.

P. CITY CLERK REPORT:

Clerk explained the UFC building and they are not renewing lease with County. County inquired if the City would be interested in building; Council had discussion and would like to make sure there would be no monetary fees to the County, find out if the white building can or would be removed and have Public Works inspect the building.

Clerk explained the recycling fees of Elite and packer truck and gave dumpster option. Council would like Elite to come to a meeting to discuss further, possible only a spring recycling.

Q. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Council discussed property tax portion of Hilda and 62<sup>nd</sup> street.

2. Van Lith noted the \$4811.00 in question can be removed from the budget and the Clerk is working on report of budget reduction numbers; at this time there is around \$9600 (including the \$4811.00) that could be reduced. Clerk should have report finished by November meeting. Van Lith brought up Clerks wages and explained the Clerk is not being paid the budgeted wages due to the healthcare differences. Van Lith suggested the Clerk should be compensated accordingly with her completion of clerk credentials and her healthcare costs are considerable less than previous clerk; Council will review with numbers and can be discussed at employee review.

3. Keep on the agenda for future discussion.

R. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Turnquist mentioned he has had several calls regarding property pins on Park Street East; Council suggested checking with Bolton and Menk.

S. ADJOURNMENT: Turnquist moved and Jaeger second to adjourn meeting at 7:49 PM. The motion carried, all in favor.

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