

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES – DECEMBER 3, 2019 – PAGE 1 OF 3

A. CALL TO ORDER: The Regular City Council meeting and Truth and Taxation Public Hearing was held on December 3, 2019 in the city council room of the New Germany City Hall. Mayor VanLith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., those present were: Mayor VanLith, Councilpersons Shirley Jaeger, Ty Turnquist, and Thomas Mielke. Others present were: Fire Chief – Dan Ruschmeier, Ehlers- Shelly Eldridge, and City Clerk – Twyla Menth. Audience members present were: None present.

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

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Jaeger moved and Mielke seconded approval of the agenda with the additions of Resolutions 2019-23, 24, 25. The motion carried. 4/0

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mielke moved and Van Lith seconded approval of the, November 19, 2019 minutes. The motion carried. 4/0

E. SHERIFFS REPORT: Nothing at this time.

F. FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Chief Ruschmeier provided Council a report on 2020 Elections of Fire Department Officers; 2 changes and they were 2nd Captain is Dan Perrel, 1st Lieutenant is Clayton Quaas, all other officer positions remained the same as previous year. Chief Ruschmeier has recommended to Council to accept the officers. Council Member Mielke asked Chief Ruschmeier for clarification of Captain and Lieutenant; generally, the Captain is in charge of trainings and the Lieutenant learns from the Captain to eventually move up the ranks, officer or position requirements of Captain and Lieutenant are 5 years on the Fire Department stated Chief Ruschmeier. Turnquist questioned if the Chief is on board with Fire Department needs for long range goal setting for the Financial Management Plan; Chief Ruschmeier has recently implemented larger FD items into the FMP with the help of Ehlers and Ehlers will be presenting to Council later in the meeting. Council continued discussion on equipment that is state mandated; SCBA'S.

Jaeger moved and Mielke seconded approval of the 2020 Fire Department officers as presented by Chief Ruschmeier. The motion carried. 4/0

Chief Ruschmeier has requested a work session for the 2020 Hall Rental; January 14, 202, 7 PM.

Chief Ruschmeier explained the Fire Department would like to eliminate the President position in the FD. The president ran the meeting and this is also done by the Chief, the President was paid \$100 per year, eliminate payment of position as well. In the event the Chief was not present it would then go to the next seniority officer to run the meeting. In the FD manual they would eliminate F. President, section 1 would be moved to section 16 under Chief. Section 1 reads; It shall be the President's duty to attend and preside over all regular and special meetings of the New Germany Fire Department. Chief stated this is the New Germany Fire Department recommendation to the Council. Jaeger moved and Mielke seconded approving the recommendation of the Fire Chief for eliminating the President position and wages of the President of the New Germany Fire Department and adding section 16 to (G) to the Chief's role in the Fire Department manual. The motion carried. 4/0

Chief Ruschmeier reported 65 calls for the 2019 Fire Department year.

G. TREASURERS REPORT: The Treasury report noted that the checkbook balance was \$1,488,834.21. This includes the CD's total \$49,859.22. Jaeger moved and Mielke seconded approval of the Treasurer's report. The motion carried. 4/0

Council reviewed the October 2019 bank reconciliation.

H. APPROVE CLAIMS: Jaeger moved and Turnquist seconded approval of the claims in the amount of \$32,092.58. The motion carried. 4/0

I. WATER SEWER REPORT: Nothing at this time.

J. ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

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1. Ehlers went through the Truth and Taxation information which was in the form of the City's updated Financial Management Plan (FMP) – over all the levy can go down an additional \$2,114.00, this results in a 2.0% decrease in the tax rate instead of 1.3%. General fund cash balances remain stable, help mitigate potential increases of water and sewer rates as planned. A few items that were marked for 2019 and were not purchased will be carried into 2020.

Shelly went through the Pre-Sale Report for the \$520,000 General Obligation Bond, 2020A. One of the reasons of lowering the general fund operating tax levy is due to refinancing the 2009A bond for the state mandated Fire Department equipment of \$155,000, this has the potential to save the city an additional \$33,000 over ten years, potential of reduction in the interest rate of 3-4.75% range to 2.45% with the new 2020A bond. The term of the bond is ten years which is the same as 2009A. When the bond goes to bid and if for some unknown reason the interest rates come back considerable higher, the city has the right of refusal. The city would then go to a bank for an equipment loan, as in the past with the Fire Truck (Wells Fargo loan). Shelly explained the market trend and everything is looking favorable for the refinance of the bond. Shelly continued going through the timeline and publication of the resolution process if the city decides to move forward with the 2020A Bond process. Council asked questions and continued discussion.

2. Mielke moved and Jaeger seconded approving Resolution 2019-21 Resolution Providing for the Sale of \$520,000 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2020A. The motion carried.

Turnquist – I

Van Lith – I

Jaeger – I

Mielke – I

Hartwig – absent

3. Turnquist moved and Mielke seconded approving the Resolution 2019-22 Resolution Determining the Necessity to Issue Not to Exceed \$200,000 General Obligation Equipment Certificate of 2020. The motion carried.

Jaeger – I

Turnquist – I

Van Lith – I

Mielke – I

Hartwig – absent

4. Jaeger moved and Turnquist seconded approving Resolution 2019-23 A Resolution Approving the LG 55 Government Approval or Acknowledgement for use of Gambling Funds, funds of \$1,000 to be used for purchasing a wrench for the 6 x 6 Utility Vehicle of the Fire Department. The motion carried. 4/0

5. Mielke moved and Jaeger seconded A Resolution Approving the LG55 Government Approval or Acknowledgement for Use of Gambling Funds, \$632.19 to be used for Gaga children play equipment during the FD Annual Tournament. The motion carried. 4/0

6. Jaeger moved and Mielke seconded Resolution 2019-25 A Resolution Approving the LG55 Government Approval or Acknowledgement for Use of Gambling Funds, funds of \$5,000 are to be placed in the FD Truck and Building Capital Fund. The motion carried. 4/0

K. BUILDING PERMIT UPDATE: None at this time.

L. COMPLAINT LOG: None at this time.

M. PW REPORT: Bobcat is in for repairs, wiring issues and engine pressure relief valve on oil pump, city has a rental bobcat.

N. PARKS REPORT: December 7, 8-11 AM is Breakfast with Santa at the Hall.

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O. MAYORS REPORT: Mayor Van Lith moved to close Public Hearing on Truth and Taxation at 8.42 PM. The motion carried. 4/0

P. CLERKS REPORT: Clerk explained a formula error found in 2020 budget spread sheets; ended up to be a surplus in budget, redistributed to snow contract maintenance repair on account of Bobcat repairs and to streets for phase 2 of ally or Black Forest culvert repairs that could be done in 2020. Reminded Turnquist and Van Lith 410 State Avenue compliance needs to be finalized. Questions on where things were at on sewer jetting.

Q. OLD BUSINESS: None at this time.

R. NEW BUSINESS: None at this time.

S. ADJOURNMENT: Mielke moved and Turnquist seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 pm. The motion carried. 4/0

Respectfully Submitted, _____ Twyla Menth, City Clerk-Treasure