

## CITY COUNCIL MINUTES – OCTOBER 6, 2020

A CALL TO ORDER: The Regular City Council meeting was held September 15, 2020 in the City Hall basement of the New Germany City Hall, using the recommended Covid guidelines. Mayor Van Lith called the Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., those present were: Mayor Van Lith, Councilpersons Shirley Jaeger, Ty Turnquist, Thomas Mielke, and Jeremy Hafemann. Others present were: City Clerk – Twyla Menth. Audience members were: Officer Jacobson, Josh Graunke, Scott Graunke, Katie Schaumann, and Fire Chief Ruschmeier.

B. CITIZEN COMMENT- None.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mielke moved and Jaeger second approval of agenda, with the addition of Resolutions 2020-20, 2020-21, and review of Down South Liquor license. The motion carried. 5/0

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Mielke moved and Jaeger second approval of September 15, 2020 Council minutes. The motion carried. 5/0

E. ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

1. Katie Schaumann the new Community Engagement Coordinator for Southern Valley Alliance located in Belle Plaine, MN was present. Katie explained to Council they are a non-profit organization that provides services and support for victims of domestic violence in Carver and Scott counties. They are a prevention and solutions-focused organization partnering with law enforcement, county legal systems, social services and healthcare providers to make the communities of Scott and Carver counties a better, safer place to live.

Katie has been part of this wonderful organization for two short months, but Southern Valley Alliance has been serving your community for the past 38 years. Maxine Kruschke founded Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women in 1982 after leaving a 32-year year marriage where she, herself, was a survivor of Domestic Violence.

Earlier this year they changed their name to Southern Valley Alliance to reflect a more inclusive and progressive approach, as domestic abuse can affect anyone, not just women.

Katie is honored to be here tonight because October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and an important time to recognize and stand up for victims and survivors within our community.

Katie mentioned that 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men in the United States have experienced some form of domestic violence or domestic abuse in their lifetime.

Southern Valley Alliance is the sole provider of domestic violence services in Carver and Scott counties and we assist over 1,500 victim-survivors each year. In Carver county alone, we provided services to 255 individuals, last year.

(140 members of New Germany have been assisted in the past 38 years). Katie provided Council with the services they offer.

Our programs and services include:

- 24/7 Confidential Crisis Line
  - Trained Advocates
- Crisis Intervention and Advocacy
  - Legal/Court Advocacy
- Safe Housing Partnerships
  - No DV Shelters
- Support Groups 7-8:30pm
  - Monday's via Zoom
  - Thursday's at Faith Lutheran Church in Waconia
- Children's Visitation Center
  - Provides supervised visits for children and their non-custodial parent.
  - 197 Visits last year.
- Community Engagement and Education
- Silent Auction
  - Ends 8pm TOMORROW
  - Hotel Stays, Gift Certificates, Gift Baskets
- Poinsettias Annual Fundraiser
  - Save \$5 on Bachman's Poinsettias by buying through us

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- Gifts of Hope
  - Clients are invited to pick a variety of items to make their holidays a little brighter. All items for this event are donated by the community, so the amount we are able to give depends on the amount which is donated.
- Volunteer
  - Crisis Line, Visitation Center, Upcoming Events, Tabling
- Follow us and Share our information
  - E-newsletter, social media
- Hang up flyers
  - Crisis Line Flyers
- Invite us to speak
- Donate

2. Josh and Scott Graunke were present to discuss with Council the allowed use of their land within a R1 district. Josh explained to Council his legal hemp business located in an R1 district. Josh explained the process of his hemp business to Council, also informed Council in addition to the hemp business he grows organic produce, sells to farmers markets and a few restaurants. Josh noted there is additional vegetable stands in R1 that sell to the public along with car repairs shop; not allowed uses within R1. Council and Josh continued discussion on allowed use of property, IUP, CUP, and rezoning that may be an option for his business in the future. Josh also explained to Council all the legal aspects he has had to comply with to obtain his hemp license from the MN Department of Ag, everything is done legally. Council reported there has been many phone calls to the Clerk on the smell in that area, Sheriff office was contacted by the City as a result of the phone calls. Officer Jacobson was present and did confirm Josh is doing everything legal, has all of the necessary license to grow hemp. If Council would prefer a work session Officer Jacobson would make sure Carver County Administration could or would be present for the work session; discussion continued. Josh informed Council in spring of 2020 two years of seeds were purchased and this is an expense for him. Josh planted from the seeds this past spring and is planning on for spring of 2021, this is how Josh makes his living. Josh and his family are all part of the business and again this is his living noted Josh. Council discussed formal complaint procedure. Josh asked the Council for some leniency in this particular situation and his ultimate goal is to make enough profit to purchase additional land in the country to continue growth for his business.

Jaeger moved and Mielke second approving Josh Graunke to plant his 2021 seeds. The motion carried 4/1

Jeremy Hafemann – aye, Steven Van Lith- nay, Ty Turnquist- aye. Let it be noted if ever a formal complaint this issue will need to be revisited. Josh will attend a Council meeting in spring of 2022 for another discussion, Josh noted it is his intention to work with the city.

3. Resolution 2020-18 A Resolution Appointing Election Judges for the General Election. Turnquist moved and Jaeger second approving Resolution 2020-18. The motion carried. 5/0

4. Resolution 2020-19 A Resolution declaring October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Hafemann moved and Turnquist second Resolution 2020-19. The motion carried. 5/0

5. Resolution 2020-20 A Resolution Approving the LG555 Government Approval or Acknowledgement for use of Gambling Funds, \$9,000 into the FD truck and Building Capital fund. Jaeger moved and Hafemann second approving Resolution 2020-20. The motion carried. 5/0

6. Resolution 2020-21 A Resolution Approving the LG 555 Government Approval or Acknowledgement for use of Gambling Funds, \$1200 for payment of the Parks Ag Lime. Jaeger moved and Mielke second approval of Resolution 2020-21. The motion carried. 5/0

F. SHERIFFS REPORT: Officer Jacobson's questioned if the City had any sexual offender ordinance; Sheriff Dept is reviewing which cities have an ordinance in place.

G. FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: The washer extractor and dryer are in place in the FD garage.

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Chief Ruschmeier and the fire fighters would like to change how they are paid in a calendar year; they are paid January 1 – November for all training and calls, this does not match the state call reports, would like January 1 – December 31. Clerk is checking with Auditor on the best practice to achieve this request.

Fire Chief Ruschmeier reported the Fire Department is looking for new ideas for fund raisers and they are looking into a trap tournament. Possible at one of the local gun ranges and requesting the city to determine the insurance needs if off site and the requirements.

Fire Chief Ruschmeier explained to Council the pager change that the County is requesting. Fire Chief Ruschmeier provided a quote for 8 Unication G5 stored voice pager, 800 MHZ/VHF dual band P25 digital trunking pager, NON-Intrinsically safe model; includes 1 battery pack, standard charging cord, belt clip, 2-year warranty \$675.00 per pager. Radio budget has \$8,537 remaining, does not want to deplete in case of any repairs needed on existing pagers. Fire Chief Ruschmeier is proposing to purchase 8 pagers and the programming fee is \$250 for all 8 pagers, which is included in the quote for \$5,700. At this time, it is unknown if the VHF pagers will work in New Germany, but it is what the County is requiring. Chief Ruschmeier will plan on additional pagers next year if they are proven to be efficient, in the event they function correctly they may be able to sell the current FD pagers. The FD total pagers needed will be 28-29; will need to budget accordingly each year.

Turnquist moved and Hafemann second approving the purchase of 8 VHF pagers for \$5,700. The motion carried. 5/0

H. TREASURE REPORT: The Treasury report noted that the General Fund balance was \$798,703.21, which includes the CD in the amount of \$26,290.58, Investment account balance is an additional \$1,011,367.12. Mielke moved and Jaeger second approving the Treasure report. The motion carried. 5/0

I. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: Mielke moved and Turnquist second approving the claims in the amount of \$40,564.17. The motion carried. 5/0

J. WATER SEWER REPORT: People Service and SEH have continued testing chemicals studies on the wastewater pond samples to determine which chemicals will achieve the needed see which ones will provide the best results for maintain phosphorus levels in the wastewater ponds.

K. BUILDING PERMIT UPDATE: Home addition on Park Street E was submitted.

L. COMPLAINT LOG: none.

M. PUBLIC WORKS: Clean-up day was slow, city disposed of mattresses that were dumped in the compost bin, cleaned in city shed and disposed of some items.

N. PARKS REPORT: Halloween Party for the children on October 24, following the covid guidelines.

O. MAYORS REPORT: nothing further to report.

P. CITY CLERK REPORT:

Budget work session date is confirmed October 27, 7 PM. Received all of the touch free towel, soap and hand sanitizer dispensers and they have been installed.

Justin Black and Jessica Hedin with SEH will be attending in the near future providing updates on the wastewater regionalization research; research was delayed with the Covid.

Election training October 20, October 23 pick up all election supplies.

Clerk is out of the office on; October 12, ½ day and October 15.

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Q. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Mielke and Turnquist conducted a janitor interview prior to Council meeting. Mielke and Turnquist are recommending that Council hire Tony Burke for the Hall Janitor position pending the criminal background check. Mielke moved and Jaeger second approving Tony Burke for the janitor position pending the criminal background check. The motion carried. 5/0

2. Duetchland Apartment building – During the sanitation process it was questioned if this apartment complex was to be using the city sanitation service as their dumpster supplier. Duetchland would like to use their current dumpster provider as they are under a contract, it was discussed if they are allowed to like the other commercial businesses, Mayor Van Lith tabled until further information is reviewed.

3. No additional information as of this meeting.

R. NEW BUSINESS: None at this time.

S. ADJOURNMENT: Mielke moved and Hafemann second adjourning the meeting at 8:55 PM. The motion carried. 5/0

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