

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

A. CALL TO ORDER: The Regular City Council meeting was held August 18, 2020 in the City Hall basement of the New Germany City Hall, applying the 6 ft social distance guideline, the end of the meeting was moved into the City office using 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, Jeremy Hafemann. And Thomas Mielke. Others present were: Fire Chief – Dan Ruschmeier, City Clerk – Twyla Menth. Audience members were: Andrew with Herald Journal, John Fahey, Officer Jacobson with Carver County Sheriff Dept.

B. CITIZEN COMMENT- None.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mayor Van Lith suggested moving Officer Jacobson to E1, moving fall cleanup to Public Works, and adding John Fahey after the Fire Department report. Jaeger moved and Mielke second approval of agenda, with the changes as suggested by Mayor Van Lith. The motion carried. 5/0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Jaeger moved and Mielke second approval of August 18, 2020 Council minutes. The motion carried. 5/0

E. ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

1. Mayor Van Lith welcomed new officer; Allie Jacobson to New Germany. Officer Jacobson started in mid-March with training from the current City Officer Bengtson. Officer Jacobson will be here until the end of the year, then it will be decided if she stays or is assigned elsewhere. Officer Jacobson informed Council she has been working on the over sized items parked on the city streets and ATV/UTV complaints. Officer Jacobson will stop at the Fire Department on Monday evening to introduce herself to the Fire Department. Officer Jacobson will be patrolling Monday – Friday, 2 PM – 10 PM, standard weekday holidays off.

2. Truth and Taxation date – December 1, 2020 7 PM in conjunction with Council meeting. Ehlers will be present at this meeting with the final levy. Turnquist moved and Mielke second approving the Truth and Taxation hearing date of December 1, 2020. The motion carried. 5/0

3. Council reviewed the proposed Carver County Prosecution contract; \$43.06 increase from previous year. Turnquist moved and Hafemann second approving the 2021 Carver County Prosecution contract. The motion carried. 5/0

F. SHERIFFS REPORT: Nothing further to report.

G. FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Chief Ruschmeier was present and reported the mock OSHA inspection is scheduled for September 3; ordered a few fire extinguishers for the UFC building, eye wash station for the Fire Department building. Received a \$2500 Center Pointe grant towards the purchase of a washer extractor, cost of the washer extractor and dryer is \$11,810, plus shipping of \$1,000; this is not a planned purchase but with the Covid the extractor is necessary. Chief Ruschmeier explained the importance of washing the new turn out gear after calls and anything covid related as well. After each call the fire fighter would be responsible for washing their turn out gear in extractor, this will eliminate the fear of the fire fighter absorbing materials into skin. Hafemann moved and Jaeger second approving the washer extractor and dryer purchase for the Fire Department. The motion carried. 5/0

Mayor Van Lith introduced John Fahey who is running for District 5 Carver County Commissioner. John Fahey thanked Council for the opportunity to speak and stated he is excited to be running and looking forward to the general election on November 3. Mayor Van Lith noted that Commissioner Ische made a point to occasional check in with New Germany and would hope that John would continue this if elected as County Commissioner.

H. TREASURE REPORT: The Treasury report noted that the General Fund balance was \$787,050.27, which includes the CD in the amount of \$26,290.58, Investment account balance is an additional \$1,008,321.13. Mielke moved and Jaeger second approving the Treasure report. The motion carried. 5/0

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- I. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: Jaeger stated that Eric Roepke would be asking the Fire Department (Relief) for a Park donation next time they meet to help with the Henning bill of Ag lime. Jaeger moved and Hafemann second approving the claims in the amount of \$51,716.25. The motion carried. 5/0
- J. WATER SEWER REPORT:
1. The ac unit had a hole in the compressor; imported unit, cannot use a generic brand which would have been half the price, cost for replacement is 1200-1300 plus labor. Lee's Refrigeration completed the repair yesterday.
2. Waste water pond sampling for phosphorus treatment took place yesterday. New Germany will be testing a new product; poly aluminum chloride to lower the phosphorus limits, first time they are testing this product. The preliminary report was it worked extremely well, better than alum. Poly aluminum chloride is more expensive than alum but using ½ of the product with the poly aluminum chloride. They will continue researching the products next week and will calculate the cost of alum and poly aluminum chloride and provide the city with the report.
- K. BUILDING PERMIT UPDATE: none at this time.
- L. COMPLAINT LOG: Nothing at this time.
- M. PUBLIC WORKS:
1. Van Lith reported chip seal sweeping is on Thursday; no parking on the streets that were previously chip sealed.
2. Council had a discussion on the fall clean up date of September 26; items would consist of garbage and furniture items only. Mayor Van Lith explained that Jerry Goede with Camden Township expressed interest in joint efforts for clean-up; cost for two trucks, staff, 4 hours is \$6,131.81, approximately \$3,065.00 each; this option would save the city some money, if the city has it on their own the cost is \$3,740.66 with one truck, staff, 3 hours.
Hafemann moved and Jaeger second approving fall clean up day on September 26, with 2 options; first option is joint efforts with Camden for \$6,131.81, if they approve Camden would be responsible for 50% of the \$6,131.81, 2nd option is New Germany on its own with one truck, staff for 3 hours \$3,740.66. The motion carried. 5/0 Van Lith will contact Jerry Goede in the AM for an answer.
- N. PARKS REPORT: No report.
- O. MAYORS REPORT: Stove was delivered yesterday, need to order cord.
- P. CITY CLERK REPORT:
Turkey Bingo – they would like to have the event at the hall, upstairs at 50% capacity, beer under the Relief Association, can pop or whatever they decide, space the seating apart and use the booths, family members can sit together, would recommend masks as it is a public building, would follow the recommended state guidelines, disinfect the tables, chairs and booths. Jaeger moved and Hafemann second approving the Legion Turkey Bingo event as long as they are willing to follow the state guidelines relating to COVID 19. The motion carried. 5/0

Conversation with Lester Prairie City Administrator researching police coverage options; will discuss more in the next weeks.

Vacation request dates: September 8, September 14, and October 15. Jaeger moved and Hafemann second approving vacation dates as requested. The motion carried. 5/0

- Q. OLD BUSINESS:
1. Sanitation contract - Council went through the Sanitation contract and the City attorney comments pertaining to the contract; changes were made and Council agreed with all of the attorney recommendations, contract will be sent back to the attorney for updating.
2. Cares funds – Council discussed if they would be donating anything to CDA for New Germany small business grants; if funds are not used, they are returned to the city. Mielke moved and Turnquist

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second approving \$2,000 to be disbursed to the CDA for distribution to New Germany business's that apply and meet the criteria for the Small Business Emergency Assistance grant. The motion carried. 5/0

R. NEW BUSINESS: No report.

S. ADJOURNMENT: Turnquist moved and Mielke second adjourning the meeting at 8:31 PM. The motion carried. 5/0

Respectfully Submitted, _____ Twyla Menth, City Clerk-Treasurer