

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES – APRIL 20, 2021

A. CALL TO ORDER: The Regular City Council meeting was held on April 20, 2021 in the city basement 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, Thomas Mielke, and Kevin Grove. Others present were: City Clerk – Twyla Menth, City Officer Hendricks, Audience members present were: Jillian with US Solar, Lyle Grossinger, and Eric Roepke with Parks.

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

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - **Jaeger moved and Mielke second approval of Agenda. The motion carried. 5/0.**

D. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Jaeger moved and Mielke seconded approval of the April 6, 2021 minutes. The motion carried. 5/0**

E. ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED -

Park Street Activities – Lyle Grossinger explained his frustration with the burn out that happened on Park Street East. Lyle approached the home owner and tried to do the neighborly thing and talk to the residents on this type of activities. Lyle noted the home owner encourages this type of behavior. Lyle is worried on the kids and property damage if a vehicle would lose control. Lyle did not call into police dispatch and there were no reports. Lyle noted this is very disruptive to the neighborhood, and unfair to the people living there. Officer Hendricks explained how the Police Department would view the case or handle the situation as to state laws, and city ordinances. Officer Hendricks explained the Deputy contract hours for New Germany; 1 hour a day Monday – Friday. Officer Hendricks suggested with today's technology to get a photo or video of the vehicle with the license plate, driver, these are all the components needed to potentially issue a citation. Video would be entered as evidence, person taking video would need to be willing to testify. No calls of any exhibition, burn outs, or any driving violation calls on Park Street E from January till April 20, 2021 reported Officer Hendricks. Lyle noted that house sales decreased on account of all the burn out marks on the street, questioned by potential home buyers as to why the streets were so marked up. Officer Hendricks went through what a violator could potentially be charged with. Discussion on the stop sign intersection of Washington and Park Street E, (by the park) people are disobeying and going through stop sign, concerns of safety with children on the Park and crossing streets.

Solar Subscription – Jillian with US Solar presented to Council a solar subscription; 25-year contract, community solar garden is actually located in Mcleod County. Program started in 2015, one of the first in the community solar garden program, first projects online in 2017, local company in Mpls, Minnesota, in other states as well. Jillian explained how the credit works with your electric bill and or company. US Solar did an analysis of the city buildings using Xcel energy utility billing history. Mayor Van Lith questioned what if a Solar Company approached the city for a community solar garden and the city has a subscription elsewhere. If a solar community would come to town there is no obligation from the city to subscribe or penalty if the city chooses not to reported Jillian. Mayor Van Lith questioned the maintenance portion of the subscription contract, no obligation of maintenance in the solar garden, there is a clause in the contract on account of a natural disaster and the solar garden is down for over 100 days the contract is void. US Solar makes money off the subscription payment that the consumer pays. Mayor Van Lith would like to contact other cities listed in the presentation for feedback before making any commitments. Discussion continued on how the subscription would transfer to other buildings in the event of a relocation, and or property sale, the risk for the program is you are locking into a subscription program for 25 years, this is the biggest risk involved (long term commitment). Cities general have a long-term contract verses residential. Council would like to discuss and research with other cities that have a community solar subscription.

NG Baseball team – Eric explained to Council Ron Wischnack wanted to discuss cementing the dug outs and installing fence (Ron was not present). Council will table for now until Ron is present.

Resolution 2021-07 – Resolution to participate local affordable housing program. **Mielke moved and Grove second approving Resolution 2021 -07. The motion carried. 5/0**

F. SHERIFFS REPORT – Monthly report was included.

G. FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT – no report.

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES – APRIL 20, 2021

H. TREASURE REPORT- The **Treasury report noted that the financial accounting fund balance was \$1,728,188.41 (Investment account is included in report). The motion carried. 5/0**

I. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS – **Mielke moved and Grove second approving the claims in the amount of \$25,253.28. The motion carried. 5/0**

J. WATER SEWER REPORT –

People Service contract (3-year contract) – contract changes consist of adding a \$120 per year for sampling, verbiage change on replacing 12 meters per year (almost complete, 7 meters left), an additional increase per year of approximately 3%, current monthly rate is \$2430 per month. Council will review and place back on the agenda.

Mayer Regionalization meeting – Mayor Van Lith and Council members Jaeger and Mielke may attend. May meeting, Gregg Stang and Lee Ortloff would prefer the beginning of May.

K. BUILDING PERMIT UPDATE – 461 Park Street E, window permit.

L. COMPLAINT LOG - no additional complaints at this time.

M. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT -

Pressure washer – Grove supplied a quote for the pressure washer of \$2529.99 from Northern Hydraulics. **Jaeger moved and Grove second approving the purchase of NorthStar electric wet steam & hot water pressure washer in the amount of \$2529.99. The motion carried. 5/0**

Alley update – Grove has been communicating with Henning's on a plan of grading, adding material, compacting and final is adding dust control for the Alley between Washington and County Road 33. Lyle Grossinger mentioned to have Mueller's out again as it did not hold up as they thought it would, more material should have been applied. Grossinger would like to see it asphalt.

N. PARKS REPORT –

Dogs loose in the ball park - Eric explained issues with dogs in the ball park, the urine is killing the grass, ball players do not appreciate feces in their playing field; possible place signage on the fence.

Park Repairs - Eric provided explained some items that need repairs. Ball park gate needs to be fixed (double gate) top rail is broken, score board has been repaired. Kromer machine the city purchased from Waconia, trans axle went out (this was known when purchased), to purchase a new trans axle is \$1,400, Kromer Co., has one on the shelf \$1,075.00 with the gasket. New Kromer machine is \$28,000. **Grove moved and Jaeger second to purchase the trans axle for \$1,075. The motion carried. 5/0**
Ball field lights - Eric thought the light poles would be available end of May beginning of June. The City already has the lights, Eric may have a chance to get additional lights with poles. Baseball team is to be contributing towards this project. Lindstrom Park there is a short in the irrigation, fence is pushed up in the outfield, thinking of using the bobcat to try and push it down (takes two people). Eric reported the water heater is leaking water at Lindstrom Park, men's stool was also running. Bathrooms at Lindstrom showing rust on account of the moisture. Jaeger mentioned if the city gets any additional funds, hopeful to use for bathroom ventilation issues.

O. MAYORS REPORT -nothing additional to report.

P. CLERKS REPORT -

Sheriff department is looking to implement body cameras by late summer. Operational cost is approximately \$468.00 per year, per Officer. Sheriff department will be researching a dispatch study requested by Chaska and Chanhassen. Sheriff Department will be implementing encrypted communication; security purposes during all of the civil unrest.

Hall Rental 4/29 – 5/1, no shooting sports the night of the 29th.

Street sweeping is scheduled for April 21. Will be scheduling storm cleaning and sewer jetting.

Automark election equipment is retiring; bring to the county Wednesday or Thursday, will be replaced by next Election.

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES – APRIL 20, 2021

Q. OLD BUSINESS –

Elevator – Council reviewed the information from Arrow lift in regards to repairs on the elevator \$3,799.05, to modernize the elevator would be approximately \$30,000, new elevator or complete replacement would be approximately \$50,000. Arrow lift cannot predict when things will go wrong, it is an old elevator, some parts have become obsolete. Arrow lift feels it is reasonable to assume these components will last another 2-4 years, like in the past. Arrow lift will not estimate the overall life of the elevator, it can last for a long time, but it's going to get more expensive to repair. **Grove moved and Mielke second to have the repairs done on the elevator in the amount of \$3,799.05. The motion carried. 5/0**

Address change information – reach out to the resident's involved for their input. Checking with the county at GIS for any suggestions and or issues.

R. NEW BUSINESS –

PT Office interviews – Thomas has applied for the position, cannot continue on the personal committee if applying or in the interview of applicants. Turnquist volunteered to complete the interviews with the Clerk. Turnquist and Menth will do the interviews the first week of May.

S. ADJOURNMENT - **Grove moved and Jaeger second to adjourn meeting at 8:42 PM. The motion carried. 5/0**

Respectfully Submitted, _____ Twyla Menth, City Clerk