
CITY OF NEW GERMANY, CITY COUNCIL MINUTES – JANUARY 4, 2022

A. CALL TO ORDER: The Regular City Council meeting was held on January 4, 2022 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 presents were: Mayor Van Lith, Councilpersons Shirley Jaeger, Thomas Mielke and Kevin Grove. Others present were: Fire Chief Dan Ruschmeier, Asst Chief – Ryan Goede, SEH – Justin Black, Jessica Hedin, and City Clerk – Twyla Menth. Audience members present were: None.

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

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: **Mielke moved and Grove second approval of Agenda, with the additions of Resolution 2022-02, add Fire Chief to item #1 on account of needing to attend another meeting. The motion carried. 4/0.**

D. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES: **Mielke moved and Jaeger second approval of the December 21, 2021 minutes. The motion carried. 4/0**

E. ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

1. Chief Ruschmeier explained the 2024 Fire Truck tanker chassis has to be ordered by January 21 for delivery in 2024. This truck will fit in the fire garage, about 1 ft longer than the old truck. The truck should be finished in approximately 440 days after the final paperwork for the truck. The Fire Department will need to put \$5,000 down with the completed paperwork to lock the chassis in. Fire Department is required a minimum of 2,000-gallon holding of water for the ISO rating; otherwise, this would affect the Townships insurance rates, does not affect the city. Total for everything \$289,128.00 delivered, life expediency is about 30 years. Chief Ruschmeier used federal bids for the tanker truck. Sell the old tanker at Fahey auction was Fire Chief Ruschmeier' recommendation, after the new truck is in place. **Grove moved and Jaeger second approving the 2024 FD tanker truck chassis, and the \$5,000 deposit to be used from the FD Capital Fund. The motion carried. 4/0**

2. Justin Black with SEH was present to discuss the annual Engineering contract for the City of New Germany. Fees are not to exceed the \$6,000 in calendar year of 2022, day to day Engineering services. Anything additional would be brought to Council in a project proposal. **Mielke moved Jaeger second approving SEH Engineer contract of \$6,000 in a calendar year for day-to-day engineering services. The motion carried. 4/0**

3. Jessica Hedin wastewater engineer explained that MPCA is requesting preliminary effluent limits, on account of the time lapse (2018) of previous submission. These effluent limits are also needed for the facility plan, and with the sufficient time that has passed this has changed the design year from 2040 to 2044 resulting in an increase in design flow and the preliminary effluent limits received by MPCA in 2018 may not accurately reflect current probable effluent limits. The increase in design flow to the WWTF has also provided an opportunity for other city to develop and submit an antidegradation (antideg) review to the MPCA in order to increase the constituent mass load being discharged as a result of increased wastewater flow. The preliminary effluent limit request typically freezes the current constituent mass limits resulting in lower effluent concentrations if the WWTF design flow is increased. The antideg review is a parameter-by-parameter evaluation for which the city will need to decide which constituents to include for the greatest chance of approval and lowest impact too project cost. Total phosphorus and suspended solids have been considered for the antideg review request. The receiving water, South Fork of the Crow River by way of the Carver County Ditch #9, is an impaired water of the state for total phosphorus. Under advisement from the MPCA, it is very unlikely an increase in mass load of total phosphorus will be approved. Total suspended solids are likely to be approved, however an increase in total solids being discharged from the facility would trigger a frozen mass load, limit for mercury. The facility does not currently test for mercury and it is unknown if treatment would be required or would be feasible to meet this frozen mass limits. Land acquisition issues and the unlikely approval of an antidegradation for total phosphorus renders expansion of the existing stabilization ponds impractical.

The following recommendations outline the most likely best outcome for success with submission of the facilities plan and provide the lowest cost alternative for treatment:

- Pursue simultaneously preparation of the facilities plan with the antidegradation review.
- Develop the aerated pond treatment alternative as the low-cost alternative for the facilities plan.
- Proceed with the antidegradation review request for the following constituents:
 - 5-day carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (cBOD5),
 - Total ammonia as nitrogen, and
 - Total chlorides (if included in preliminary effluent limits).
- Accept frozen mass loads for the following constituents;
 - Total Suspended Solids (TSS) – to avoid mercury mass load limits
 - Total Phosphorus (TP) – due to significant impairment of the South Fork of Crow River as discussed above.

Schedule:

The anticipated schedule for work associated with the recommendation is as follows:

- Request updated preliminary effluent limits from MPAC – December 2021
- Continue development of the antidegradation review with the MPCA – Submit Antidegradation Review in January/February 2022
- Begin preparation of the facilities plan to be completed by March 1, 2022 with recommended alternative.

The recommendations and schedule are most likely to position the city to be in queue for the FY 2023 funding cycle. This is a significant step in positioning the city for a shovel ready project in the hope of maximizing potential grant assistance from the State and possible taking advantage of federal infrastructure funding when it comes available.

Jaeger moved and Mielke second to continue to move forward as recommended by SEH Engineers. The motion carried. 4/0

Next deadline is in March for submitting public hearing, schedule public hearing February 15, 2022. Jessica will send public hearing notice for newspaper.

4. 2022-01A Resolution Approving the Organization Summary for the City of New Germany for Year 2022. **Jaeger moved and Grove second approving Resolution 2022-01. The motion carried. 4/0**

5. 2022-02 – Relief Association donating \$10,000 to the FD truck and Building capital fund. **Grove moved and Jaeger second approving Resolution 2022-02. The motion carried. 4/0**

F. SHERIFF'S REPORT: No report.

G. FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Clayton Quaas resignation from the Fire Department and it is the FD recommendation to accept the resignation. **Jaeger moved and Grove second approving Clayton Quaas's resignation from the New Germany Fire Department. The motion carried. 4/0**

Dan Wagner has completed physical, waiting to get documentation.

H. TREASURE REPORT: The Treasury report noted that the CTAS fund balance was \$1,912,276.88 which includes the Investment fund balance. **Grove moved and Jaeger second approval of the Treasure report. The motion carried. 4/0**

I. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: **Grove moved and Mielke second approving claims in the amount of \$1,640,047.35. The motion carried. 4/0**

Included bond payment (\$1,543,131.63), year-end transfers (\$78,500), Fire Department annual payroll, regular payroll and monthly bills.

J. WATER SEWER REPORT: discussed wastewater previously.

K. BUILDING PERMIT UPDATE: Chimney stainless steel flue liner – 380 Park Street E.

L. COMPLAINT LOG: None.

M. PW REPORT: Van Lith had issues with hoses on sander, Eric helped with sanding. Van Lith repaired the issues with sander and payloader. Van Lith reported he does have help with ice skating rink, will see if weather cooperates. Christmas Lights take down; Saturday, January 8, 2022, 1 PM.

N. PARKS REPORT: Annual report provided by Jaeger.

O. MAYORS REPORT: nothing more.

P. CLERKS REPORT: New vacuum for office/hall. Excel energy rates increasing, received notice, may need to change around in 2022 budget. ROW zoning permits brought in \$1900 in fees for 2021.

Q. OLD BUSINESS: nothing more

R. NEW BUSINESS: nothing more

S. ADJOURNMENT: **Grove moved and Jaeger second to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM. The motion carried. 4/0**

Respectfully Submitted, _____ Twyla Menth, City Clerk