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*CITY OF NEW GERMANY, CITY COUNCIL MINUTES – MARCH 1, 2022*

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A. CALL TO ORDER: The Regular City Council meeting was held on March 1, 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, and Thomas Mielke. Others present were: City Clerk – Twyla Menth, Sara Oberloh with Oberloh and Assoc., Jessica Hedin, and Eric Miller with SEH. Audience members present were: Terri Manske.

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. 3/0.**

D. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES: **Mielke moved and Jaeger second approval of the February 15, 2022 minutes. The motion. 3/0**

E. ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

1. Sara Oberloh City Auditor – format of audit changed, now starts with the Auditor's opinion. Sara went through the 2021 Audit with Council. Due to missing a few Council members, 2021 Audit approval will be placed on the March 15, 2022 agenda. 2021 Audit was found to be compliant.

2. Mayor Van Lith open Public Hearing for Wastewater Treatment Facility @ 7:16 PM. Eric Miller project engineer presented a power point on the Wastewater Facility Plan. The facility plan is part of the requirement for funding for the wastewater project. History of the current ponds; 2 cells, built in early 70's, primary pond is 5 ft deep, ponds at capacity. No sewer extension and limited growth on account of capacity issues, original design flows 52,000, currently at approximately 72,000. Ponds cannot meet the phosphorus limits with the current pond permit, spring and fall is the only time allowed to discharge (June - September). Current annual wastewater O&M is \$118,000.

Alternative Evaluation:

- Stabilization Pond expansion – estimated project cost \$5,784,000. In addition to the project cost there would need to be a land acquisition, as the current property is not large enough. Annual O&M \$ 138,000.
- Aerated Pond Alternative – estimated project cost \$6,844,000. This is the best option for New Germany. Can use the current ponds, dredge the ponds and add a SAGR type system. This would allow population to grow to 742 and projected design is for 20 plus years. Aerated pond option allows for expansion if new limits are imposed on future pond permits. The option is there for additional blowers and other equipment as needed; no land acquisition is needed. Annual O&M if no funding is received \$271,000 (worst case scenario).
- Mechanical Treatment Facility – estimated project cost is \$9,596,000. The city cannot afford the full-time staff for operation, or the O& M of a mechanical plant, annual O & M is \$428,000.
- Regionalization Alternative – estimated project cost \$9,266,000, this option would be connecting to Mayer and paying user fees, annual O&M of \$322,000.

Of course, this is all depend on funding, the city or residents cannot afford any additional fees from the wastewater project. The residents are currently paying extremely high rates already and cannot afford any additional increases of rates. It is crucial the city receives funding from the submitted bonding bill of 8 million, otherwise there the wastewater project will be on hold until bonding capacity is available.

**3. Mielke moved and Jaeger second approving the 2022 Fire Department and Commercial Club liquor and soft drink license. The motion carried. 3/0**

**4. Jaeger moved and Mielke second approving Resolution 2022-05 Resolution Reestablishing Precinct and Polling Place for the City of New Germany. The motion carried. 3/0**

F. SHERIFF'S REPORT: Received a credit for the 2021 Police contract of \$585.81.

G. FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: No report, meeting March 7, 2022.

H. TREASURE REPORT: The Treasury report noted that the CTAS fund balance was \$1,945,393.00, which includes the Investment fund balance (does not include January interest and fees of investment account). **Mielke moved and Jaeger second approval of the Treasure report. The motion carried. 3/0**

I. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: **Jaeger moved and Mielke second approving the claims in the amount of \$28,730.70. The motion carried. 3/0**

J. WATER SEWER REPORT:

1. Mayor Van Lath closed the Public Hearing at 8:08 PM, no comments were received.

**Jaeger moved and Mielke second approving Resolution 2022-04 A Resolution of the City Council of New Germany, Minnesota Approving a Wastewater Treatment Facility Plan. The motion carried. 3/0**

Time line:

Submit facility plan – March 4, 2022

Receive MPCA Approval – June 1, 2022

Request placement on IUP – June 3, 2022

Authorize preparation of design documents – September 1, 2022

Submit plans and specs to MPCA – March 15, 2023

Receive MPCA approval of plans and specs- June 30, 2023

Advertise project for bids – July 30, 2023

Receive bids and awards contract – September 15, 2023

Begin Construction – March 1, 2024

Improvements optional – March 1, 2025

Final Completion – June 1, 2025

K. BUILDING PERMIT UPDATE: No updates.

L. COMPLAINT LOG: No complaints at this time.

M. PW REPORT:

Ordered salt and sand; delivered. New cutting blade for the payload.

N. PARKS REPORT: No report.

O. MAYORS REPORT: No report.

P. CLERKS REPORT: Maguire Iron will be doing the cleaning of Water tower this year; did not get it done last year on account of weather issues. New injection pump is needed on the generator, being repaired.

The city attorney is reviewing the developer's agreement for Trophy Lakes; lot owners would like landscaping on bare lots; when received will share attorney opinion. Possibly Planning Commission can meet to discuss findings and bring recommendation to Council.

Q. OLD BUSINESS: none

R. NEW BUSINESS: none

S. ADJOURNMENT: **Mielke moved and Jaeger second to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 PM. The motion carried. 3/0**

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