

A CALL TO ORDER: The Regular City Council meeting and Truth and Taxation Public Hearing was held on December 6, 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, Ty Turnquist, Thomas Mielke and Kevin Grove. Others present were: City Clerk – Twyla Menth. Audience members present were: Jeanne Vogt, Shelly Eldridge with Ehlers, Jessica Hedin, Kristine Prosocki with SEH,

**Public Hearing was opened by Mayor Van Lith at 7 PM.**

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

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Resolution 2022-27 Donation of Relief Gambling funds will be added as item #6. **Turnquist moved and Jaeger second approval of Agenda with the addition of Resolution 2022-27. The motion carried. 5/0.**

D. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES: **Turnquist moved and Grove seconded approval of the November 15, 2022, minutes. The motion carried. 5/0**

E. ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

1. Public Hearing for Truth and Taxation (Ehlers present) – Ehlers went through the Financial Management Plan; nothing has changed since the preliminary levy. Tax rate is 77.404%, tax rate change of -15.01%. Ehlers turned it over to SEH for the Wastewater Facility Plan update.

2. Jessica Hedin (SEH) – Wastewater facility plan discussion. Wastewater Engineers and the funding specialist Kristin Prosocki were present. Jessica explained that Preliminary approval from MPCA for the Facility plan has been approved. Environmental revenue, SHIPO is requiring an archeological review of the project site, Jessica is researching as to why we would need to do this. Next step is designing the Facility Plan, funding has been the question for the facility plan, advantages of doing the design sooner than later would be in a shovel ready position, in case funds would be available. PFA looks at funding by points, New Germany is 13<sup>th</sup>, on the project priority list (PPL). When they are reviewing new applicants, NG would be towards the top of the list. Carry over projects take priority over all other projects regardless of your scores. This would be a benefit if everything was ready, as it would put New Germany in a stronger position. Disadvantages is funding the design, \$500,000 is the estimated cost, depending on funding there is no guarantee you would get reimbursed. It is less typical they do a look back and reimburse, this could be a risk, if new regulations you may need to update that portion of the plan. Point source implementation grant, they pay up to 80% of the component you are trying to treat for (phosphorus). Water infrastructure fund (WIF), possibility of grants, depends if there is money available at that time. Community Development block grant – DEED, straight grant, does come with strings, World Development grant may not be eligible. Bonding bill request is still there, if things get picked up again, we don't know if New Germany's will get picked up again or if it will need to be resubmitted.

Discussion went back to Ehlers and the utility rate study.

Water fund – is on schedule, this year is a 7% increase like planned, few place holder in place for any additional issues in the future.

Sewer fund – Ehlers explained the option of a temporary bond for the \$500,000 Facility Plan. Ehlers also discussed in moving forward with the project, worst case scenario of 20% City funding of the wastewater project, the 20% cost of project not funded is \$2.3 million. The city would need approximately another 100 homes to help with the additional debt after the project.

Sewer rates for 2023 would increase 6% as previously scheduled. Ehlers will update the value of the median value home in New Germany.

Ehlers explained the options of a temporary bond for the \$500,00 and how it works.

**Mayor Van Lith closed the public Hearing at 7:45 PM.**

3. Resolution 2022-25 Adopting the 2023 Budget – **Jaeger moved and Grove seconded approving Resolution 2022-25, 2023 Budget. The motion carried. 5/0**

4. 2023 Final Levy 2022-26 – **Mielke moved and Grove seconded approving Resolution 2022-26, 2023 Final Levy. The motion carried. 5/0**

Water and sewer rates increase- **Mielke moved and Jaeger seconded approving the 2023 Utility rate increases; water rates 7% increase, sewer rates 6% increase. The motion carried. 5/0**

Fire Chief Goede was present - Annual meeting last night. 2023 Officers: Chief Ryan Goede, Asst Chief Chris Barlau, 1<sup>st</sup> Captain Craig Kahle, 2<sup>nd</sup> Captain John Lenarz, 3<sup>rd</sup> Captain Cole Midthun, Secretary Alex Kurtz. Recommending to the City to accept the officers.

**Grove moved and Jaeger seconded approving the 2023 Fire Department Officers as listed above. The motion carried. 5/0.**

Relief donated \$5,000 for the PW truck purchase. Relief is estimating \$15,000 into the FD Capital Fund. Jerry's Transmission will submit bill next week for payment.

By Laws were accepted by FD and approved.

5. Approve 2023 Liquor license

- Heimey's Place – **Jaeger moved and Mielke seconded approving the 2023 liquor license for Heimey's Place. 5/0**
- Fat Boyz – **Grove moved and Jaeger seconded approving the 2023 liquor license for Fat Boyz. The motion carried. 5/0**
- T-Road Tavern – **Grove moved and Mielke seconded approving the 2023 liquor license for T-Road Tavern. The motion carried. 5/0**

6. Resolution 2022-27 LG555 Relief Association donation of \$5,000 to the Public Works Capital fund. **Turnquist moved and Grove seconded Resolution 2022-27. The motion carried. 5/0**

F. SHERIFF'S REPORT:

1. Mayer - New Germany work plan, Council reviewed.

G. FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Chief Goede gave his report under Items to be discussed.

H. TREASURE REPORT: The Treasury report noted that the CTAS fund balance was \$2,471,833.80 which includes the Investment fund balance, November bank reconciliation was reviewed.

**Grove moved and Mielke seconded approval of the Treasure report. The motion carried. 5/0**

I. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: **Grove moved and Jaeger seconded approving claims in the amount of \$30,149.43. The motion carried. 5/0**

J. WATER SEWER REPORT:

- Software used for billing has been sold out to a company called GWorks.
- 580 State Avenue South sewer has been repaired; tree roots.

K. BUILDING PERMIT UPDATE:

- Basement finish – 701 Black Forest Road
- Zoning Permit – Groves Automotive sign
- Carver County Parks - Fence screening around biff

L. COMPLAINT LOG: None at this time.

M. PW REPORT: Truck has been working great, need a shield or something as the snow is rolling up on windshield, with deep snow and wind; Grove called the company and there is not a fix at this time. Van Lith would like to try a bug shield; Grove will order one. Grove thought we should start salt/sand on Park, Jefferson and intersections are slick, do not leave the substance in the compartment and rinse it out when done. Discussion on ice rink; no ice rink for 2022, look into different area and lighting for winter of 2023. Need a fence up or barriers for the Fat Boyz customer parking issue behind the Fire Garage. One letter has been sent to them regarding this issue.

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N. PARKS REPORT: No additional business.

O. MAYORS REPORT: No additional business.

P. CLERKS REPORT:

- Ordered new chair, support for keyboard, wrist and arm.
- Starting on year end procedures, reports. Fire Dept W-2 can already be done as they were paid in January of 2022.
- Fat Boyz is renting the hall March 4, 2023, Diamond Back is the music, looking for someone to sell/cook burgers, product can be purchased/returned through from Fat Boyz. Mayer Lions would do it, if no one from New Germany has interest. Eric was going to check with FD.
- Auditor here January 24-25, 2023

Q. OLD BUSINESS: No additional business.

R. NEW BUSINESS:

1. 2023 4-H Shooting Sport schedule – **Turnquist moved and Mielke seconded approving the 4-H Shooting Sport schedule. The motion carried. 5/0**

S. ADJOURNMENT: **Jaeger moved and Mielke second to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 PM. The motion carried. 5/0**

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