



**CITY OF NEW GERMANY- CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
SEPTEMBER 19, 2023 – 7:00 PM**

**Present – Mayor Van Lith, Council Members: Jaeger, Mielke, and Grove.
Others present: Jeanne Voght and Shelly Eldridge with Ehlers, Bobbi Harder State Representative,
Christie Larson with Southern Valley Alliance, Ryan Goede NG Fire chief, Twyla Menth, City Clerk.**

1. Opening Items

7 PM - Call meeting to Order by Mayor Van Lith, in the NG City Office.

2. Approval of Agenda

Consider Approval of Agenda – Jaeger moved and, Mielke second approving agenda. The motion carried. 3/0 (Grove not present).

3. Public Comment Period

Open Public Comment Period – Comments are limited to 5 minutes – none.

Guests - Representative Bobbi Harder – from the Henderson area, present to meet the Council, loves small town living, they are crop farmers, 2 terms as Sibley County Commissioner, well aware of Government. You can sign up for legislative updates from Bobbi Harder; Representative Harder has served on agriculture state, local government, and the work force committee. Bobbi talked with Council on the past session; allot of taxing, 1% sales tax increase for Carver County, gas prices on the rise, delivery fees, financial squeeze on many people. Representative Harder shared emails, post cards concerns she has received with Council; many on abortion, second amendment of rights, e gaming, non-citizens retaining a drivers license, non-citizens to enroll in MN Care and free college. In the past session there was an increase for education, more regulations for education, increase in small city local government aid, three nursing homes in the district will be receiving help, several projects within the district that were funded; Carver for their levy, Watertown for water tower, Gaylord for their damn, Sibley County for flood mitigation. Mayor Van Lith thanked Harder for attending the New Germany Council meeting. Harder is not sure how this next session will go; starts in February. No special session to address the officers in school. Council and Harder continued discussion on the election process.

Christie Larson with Southern Valley Alliance – executive Director, non-profit for Scott, Carver County, domestic abuse advocate, located in Belle Plaine, been around for 40 plus year, 24/7 crisis line for domestic abuse. SVA is a great source for referrals from local law enforcement, support groups; online and in person. Transition housing program started this spring, along with Community Education. Building a new advocacy center in Shakopee, done by end of 2023 and opening in 2024, watch for updates on the building process.

4. Consent Agenda

- Consider Approval of September 5, 2023 Council Minutes
 - Consider Approval of Claims for Payment
 - Consider Approval of regular Financial Reports, August Bank Reconciliation, Investment Account
 - Consider Approval of Resolution 2023-12 Domestic Violence Awareness Month
 - Consider Approval of Resolution 2023-13 FD Equip Surplus
 - Consider Approval of August 2023 Carver County Sheriff Report
- Grove moved and, Mielke second approving the consent agenda. The motion carried. 4/0.**

5. Officers' /Department/Staff Reports

- Financial Advisors – Ehlers
 - Preliminary levy – Ehlers went through tax levy presentation; General Fund Levy \$381,956, Debt Service \$88,063, which brings to the total levy \$470,019. Tax rate is decreasing, we are in the middle of the pack of surrounding smaller cities, 3% each year is still the trend moving forward. Discussion on what is the amount of reserves the Council would like, general fund needs to remain at the \$500,000 balance for bond rating. Ehlers went through the financial management plan, along with the 2024 Levy. Council and Chief Goede had a discussion on wants and needs,



**CITY OF NEW GERMANY- CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
SEPTEMBER 19, 2023 – 7:00**

- and re-prioritizing FD needs. Ehlers is willing to attend Township meeting with Chief Goede. Ehlers will be back for Truth and Taxation on December 5, 2023.
- Resolution 2023-14 – **Mielke moved and, Grove second approving the 2024 Preliminary Levy Resolution for \$470,019.00. The motion carried. 4/0.**
- Fire Department Report – Court was yesterday, guilty verdict, next court date November 3, stolen funds were used to buy a vehicle. Relief paid for the stolen pull tabs, now waiting for sentencing, and restitution plans.
 - Sanborn is adding 2 more pagers, for purchase add to the approved Resolution.
 - Chief Goede explained the encryption radios and what the County is using; County has the DES and NG radios are not capable of the DES, only the EAS. The encryption is on account of the privacy information, FD are able to use the encryption with the EAS radios. Chief Goede will find out additional information, and if contracts would need to be in place with Carver County. Cancelled the approved radio order from last meeting; getting new quotes.
 - Water pump was replaced on rescue, Grove’s Automotive repaired.
 - Ball Tournament profit was approximately \$3,000.00.
- Water/Sewer – no additional comments.
- Public Works – Wilson will be replacing trees that were removed; bill will come to the city.
- Clerk Report – October 3, Senator bonding bill tour committee will be here in New Germany, 8:40 AM. Will have a power point presentation, hopefully a drone video of the ponds, will have beverages and morning snacks for the committee. Lee Ortloff can do the presentation; Jessica Hedin will be present as well. City Clerk will be in Pennsylvania, Clerk will have as much done as possible prior to the meeting.
 - Oktoberfest – Lemmerman would like camping permission from the city on the county land, will then go to the county for approval; city has no issues. Beer area where Oktoberfest is will be in orange fence.
 - Janitor lost March payroll check; payroll taxes have been paid, figure out how to reissue.
 - 480 Park Street E – non sewer compliance (2), property is selling again, agreed to escrow funds.
 - Still waiting on hall carpet quote.
 - Updating office, hall, city shed key list, retired people on list send letter requesting keys be returned.
 - Hall wedding rental September 22- 24.
 - Possible Planning Commission meeting, September 26, possible rezoning of property.
 - Parks light project- trenching almost complete, Henning is working on water line.
 - Neighbor noise issue at 680 Broadway Street E; loud vehicle starting at 4:30 AM, neighbors cannot sleep and are tired of the loud truck. Blight ordinance has on vibrating, loud noises affecting the public peace, send abatement.
 - FD received accident billing payment of \$1800.00.
- Building Permits – siding/window permit.

6. Old City Business

- Baseball light project timeline – Eric, Paul, and Nathan Roepke have been volunteering allot of their time.
- Misc. – none.

7. New City Business

- Proposed Ordinance No. 123 – post for 10 days.

Motion by Jaeger and, second by Grove at 9 PM to extend the meeting. Motion carried. 4/0

Received the Center Pointe Franchise Ordinance, will post for 10 days with Ordinance 123, place on October 17 agenda for proposed ordinance consideration.



**CITY OF NEW GERMANY- CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
SEPTEMBER 19, 2023 – 7:00**

8. Mayor City Council Reports

- Councilmember Shirley Jaeger – Parks, Commercial Club meeting September 25, 7 PM.
- Councilmember Ty Turnquist – Not present.
- Councilmember Thomas Mielke – no report.
- Councilmember Kevin Grove – please pick up fire wood by city shed.
- Mayor Van Lith – read the Security Bank customer appreciation party invite.
Carver County – opioid settlement advocate; City Clerk.

9. Adjourn City Council Meeting – Grove moved and, Mielke second adjourning the meeting at 9:08 PM. The motion carried. 4/0

Respectfully submitted by City Clerk, Twyla Menth.