



**CITY OF NEW GERMANY- CITY COUNCIL MEETING & TRUTH AND TAXIATION PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
DECEMBER 3, 2024 – 7:00 PM**

1. Opening Items

- Call meeting to Order – Mayor Shirley Jaeger called the meeting and the Truth and Taxation Public Hearing to order @ 7 PM.
- Roll Call – Paul Roepke, Thomas Mielke, Kevin Grove, Lorn Herrmann, and Shirley Jaeger.
Others Present Ehlers – Jeanne Vogt, Fire Chief Ryan Goede, Asst Chief/PW Chris Barlau, SEH Wastewater Engineer Jessica Hedin, City Clerk Twyla Menth.

2. Approval of Agenda

- Consider Approval of Agenda – **Mielke moved and, Grove second approving the agenda. The motion carried. 5/0**

3. Public Comment Period

Open Public Comment Period – Comments are limited to 5 minutes.

4. Business items or New Business – Public Hearing – Truth and Taxation

- Ehlers – Jeanne Voght
 - Present 2025 Levy – Jeanne presented the 2025 final levy and went through the city's tax rate; decreased 2.43% for 2025. 2025 General Fund levy \$385,839., Debt Service \$48,963., for the total levy of \$434,802.00, this is a decrease of \$11,268 from 2024. Capital improvement funds were also reviewed by Council.
 - Resolution 2024-21 Resolution adopting the year 2025 final levy – **Grove moved and, Roepke second approving the 2025 Levy. The motion carried. 5/0**
 - Ehlers presented the 2025 utility rate study; water would need to increase 2.50%. Sewer fund includes wastewater upgrade and the possibility of a Temp Bond for the Facility Design plan, overall, for 2025 a 5% increase and projected 7% thru 2029 if the Temp bond is issued. The Temp bond would then be refunded into a \$2.5 bond for the city portion of the wastewater project if 100% funding is not received; Council reviewed the impact analysis on the utility rate payers. Ehlers also provided a no bonding bill scenario; this is financially not an option for the city or residents as the increases on the sewer would be over 40% for several years.
- Jessica Hedin with SEH
 - Discuss wastewater – Jessica wastewater Engineer explained the wastewater situation and the financial obligation of the project. Discussed how the bonding bill is needed for the wastewater project. Jessica went over grants options; PSIG grant, Emmer grant (rec'd 2.2 million), and other funding that will be looked at for the project. Jessica explained we will need the farmland to the east; city may want to think on requesting that the land the city owns stop being used as farmland. In 2025 is when the city would possibly request the \$750 temp bond. Jessica explained the new option that is available for cities called CMAR (with a construction manager), this would save the city money in the long run, no change orders. Wastewater discussion continued regarding the project and timeline.

****CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING** - Mielke moved and, Grove second to close the Public Hearing at 8:15 PM. The motion carried 5/0**

- 2025 Police Service contract – explained regionalization coverage. **Grove moved and, Roepke second approving the 2025 Police Contract with Carver County. The motion carried. 5/0**
 - October Sheriff report was reviewed.
- Review 2025 fee schedule – adopt December 17, went through fee schedule and Council will leave as is, increases on water and sewer as discussed. Council had a discussion on hall rentals for employees, and nonprofit organizations.

5. Officers' /Department/Staff Reports

- Fire Department Report - FD officers – Ryan Goede- Chief, Chris Barlau – Asst. Chief, Alex Kurtz – 1st Captain & Secretary, Cole Midthun – 2nd Captain, Nick Erickson – 3rd Captain. **Grove moved and, Mielke second approving the New Germany 2025 Fire Department Officers as recommended by the New Germany Fire Department. The motion carried. 5/0**
 - Rescue reserve program – daytime helpers, they are a few and they have health issues or cannot commit to calls. Best interest to dismantle the program until there is interest again, no benefits to the FD. Chief Goede is recommending disabling the program for the time being Council agreed.
 - Chief Goede had a discussion with the Legion; FD goal is to be moved in the upper level of hall by the first of the year, all pull tabs removed out of the storage area.



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Officers’/Department/Staff Reports Cont’d

- Provide the legion a key for the storage/equipment room. Clerk will get a key for the Equipment Room; Legion will provide a padlock for the storage room.
- Set up a fund in the capital fund for a Parks building capital fund funded by pull tab money.
- Turkey program turned out good.
- Apply for a federal grant, FEMA grant for turnout gear. In the past we have applied and received all new turnout gear; 16-18 sets.
- PERA – possibly raising to \$3500 per year, contribute \$12,845.00, well above the amount on account of the way we budget and the FD Tournament; budget 12K, 2% is an additional 12K, Tournament was \$20K that was invested.
- CDL – Carver County has a pilot funded program, provided information, New Germany could send 2 for the CDL program.
- Water/Sewer – Conversion for the new utility software has started, reviewed billing options; continue using the postcard option.
- Public Works - new remote for snowplow. Truck is ready to roll when a snow event happens.
 - Picked up wood for the upper part of the PW shop.
- Misc – nothing additional.
- Clerk Report – UFC Shed Carver County would be open to a long-term lease if or when the city makes improvements, life of the improvements.
 - Order first aids kits for PW, City Office, and Eric Shed.
 - During the inspection it was brought to my attention that metal gas cans should be purchased for PW.
 - Council Payroll – December 17, 2024.
 - FD payroll is after the first of the year.
 - Kilbane – attorneys are working on; City will need a Park Use Policy.
 - Opened a charge account for Water and sewer small tools/parts for People Service at Pink’s Hardware in Lester Prairie.
 - Lee Ortloff and I are researching two meters that have showed an incredible amount of water used; Duetchland and the old schoolhouse.
- Building Permits – 180 Hilda Avenue, furnace.

6. Consent Agenda

- Consider Approval of November 19, 2024, Council Minutes.
- Consider Approval of Claims for Payment
- Consider Approval of Financial Reports

Herrmann moved and, Roepke second approving the consent agenda. The motion carried. 5/0

7. Old Business

- Cannabis Ordinance review – adopt December 17, State is still making changes.
- Misc – Coordinated phone system – discussed and the city will wait for this upgrade.
- UFC (brown shed) – discussed already.

8. Mayor City Council Reports

- Councilmember Kevin Grove – no additional comments.
- Councilmember Thomas Mielke – no additional comments.
- Councilmember Paul Roepke – no additional comments.
- Councilmember Lorn Hermann – no additional comments.
- Mayor Shirley Jaeger – Santa coming Saturday 8-11 AM.

9. Adjourn City Council Meeting – Grove moved and, Herrmann second adjourning the meeting at 9:15 PM. The motion carried. 5/0

Respectfully submitted by City Clerk Twyla Menth.