



**CITY OF NEW GERMAN- CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 16th, 2025 – 7:00 PM**

1. Opening Items

- Call meeting to Order – **Mayor Shirley Jaeger called the meeting to order at 7 PM.**
- Roll Call – *Mayor Shirley Jaeger, Council Members; Lorn Herrmann, Paul Ropeke, Thomas Mielke, Kevin Grove. Others present were; Jenne Vogt with Ehlers, Ryan Goede Fire Chief, Chris Barlau FD & PW, Twyla Menth City Clerk and Bill Russell resident.*

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Public Comment Period

Open Public Comment Period – Comments are limited to 5 minutes – Bill Russell present to listen to discussion, had some water rate questions.

4. Business items or New Business –

- Ehlers – Jeanne Vogt present to discuss the maximum proposed 2026 tax levy, this is the highest amount the levy can be, going forward to the final levy it can only decrease.
The 2021A Bond and the Equipment bond will no longer need to be levied for as there is a surplus in these bond accounts.
Continuing working on bringing the tax rate down, 3% decrease has been the plan for each year, or that is the goal. City tax base increased more than anticipated, and the plan for 2% came in at 3%, this is all positive for the tax base. Jeanne continued going through the tax base and explained how the fiscal disparities play into the levy.
General fund – tax rate 3% decrease, minimal increase for the 2026 property taxes, continued going through the capital funds. Discussion on placeholders for future needs in corresponding capital funds. Discussion on new fire fighters and turn out gear that will be needed for them in 2027, increase that portion to at least \$20,000.00 in the 2027 FD financial management plan for future. 2026 Proposed levy General fund operating levy \$386,381, Special Levy \$20,608, Debt Service levy \$39,426, Total tax levy of \$446,415., difference of (\$9,537) from previous year. December 2, 2025, will be the Truth and Taxation meeting, final levy is adopted, Ehlers will be present.
 - Resolution 2025-12 Adopting Year 2026 Preliminary Levy – **Grove moved and Hermann second approving the 2026 Preliminary levy. The motion carried. 5/0**
- Misc
 - Xcel Energy rate increase (informational)

Officers’/Department/Staff Reports

- Fire Department Report
 - Fire Chief Goede – Central Fire Protection will be here next week for annual fire extinguishers inspector.
 - Fire Chief went through Generator quotes \$20,750, no gas hook ups. AME \$17,870, gas hook up included \$500 allowance for Xcel Energy, bury the overhead lines are not included, Frontier will need to be notified, could be a charge from them. **Grove moved and Mielke second approved the AME quote for the FD generator. The motion carried. 5/0**
 - Extraction gloves, head lights, flashlights, light turn out gear quote is for \$10,595. **Grove moved and Roepke second approving the FD equipment order. The motion carried. 5/0**
 - Looking at mini split systems for the fire department garage, looking at A coil option too.
 - Grass rig is inoperable; Kevin will be picking up tomorrow for repairs.
 - Hosting on October 14, EMR classes, every Tuesday and Thursday 5-6 weeks, 6-9 PM.
- Parks
 - Tree removal – quote for the ash trees in the park (4) \$9,550.00, add the 5th tree. 2025 budget is \$6,000 and 2026 budget is \$12,000. Discuss with Matt and get it scheduled and remove all 5 within the budget for the year, check on timeline.
- Water/Sewer – water shut off tomorrow, valve replaced in well house #2.
- Public Works –
 - Ball fields will get aerated tomorrow.
 - City sheds are in the process of being painted, decide who is picking up wood.
 - Angle brush 68 in stock \$6,965., 84 inch \$8,175.00 need to order. Smaller 64” can be utilized on the sidewalks. Paul suggested to demo one from Lano’s. Check with 212 Rental on the angle broom was Lorn’s suggestion.



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Officers’/Department/Staff Reports cont’d

- Chris is questioning if a brush mower can be rented to clean up the big stuff, small trees; \$225 a day or \$1,000.00 a week. Council thought it could be done in a day and move forward with the clean-up, starting early.
- Sheriff Report – Officer Gebhardt report & August 2025 report included.
- Misc – nothing additional.
- Clerk Report –
 - We have had people trying to camp at Lindstrom; no overnight camping.
 - UFC has merged with Central United Cooperative (CRC).
 - St Mark’s crosswalk will be painted in the next few weeks; also let them know the handicap in front of hall should be painted and the no parking across from Fire Garage.
 - September 25 Clerks Meeting in Victoria.
 - Mailed letters on noncompliant ordinance issues; overgrown lawn and bull thistle letter, resident did comply the evening of September 15, 2025.
 - Building Permits – income taken in online is \$1,669.44, online launch was in July.
 - Metro West is implementing or researching online permitting; for our city it would be a \$2,000 start up/set up fee and then would cost \$200-\$300 per month. I do not recommend we issue 1-2 permits a month currently, maybe after the wastewater is figured out.
 - Carver County Solid Waste grant: due October 31, will be submitted next week.
 - Utility billing on the 18th.
 - Submitted the Compeer grant for the FD.
 - Do we have an agreement on the lawn mower trade up program yet; Kevin will check out.
- Building Permit
 - 540 Park Street E, furnace & AC permit. Working on a re-roof permit for T-Road Tavern.

6. Consent Agenda

- Consider Approval of August 19, 2025, Council Minutes
 - Consider Approval of Claims for Payment
 - Consider Approval of Financial Reports
 - Consider approval of Resolution 2025 – 11, Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- Mielke moved and Grove second approving the consent agenda. The motion carried. 5/0**

7. Old Business

- Waconia 110 Special Election – information was in the Council Packet.

8. Mayor City Council Reports

- Council member Kevin Grove – Discussion on repainting the no parking in front of the fire station. Clerk will see if it is the County or the City responsibility.
- Council member Thomas Mielke – nothing additional.
- Council member Paul Roepke – Bunkers are installed in city shed for the salt. Get the area cleaned up by the city shed. Call Allied for the rocks to get swept up.
- Council member Lorn Hermann – PW shed painting should be finishing up tomorrow.
- Mayor Shirley Jaeger – Mental Health workshop with Carver County, Invite for the Yard opening in Chaska.

9. Adjourn City Council Meeting – Mielke moved and Herrman second adjourning the meeting at 8:25 PM. The motion carried. 5/0