



**CITY OF NEW GERMANY- CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES & TRUTH & TAXATION PUBLIC HEARING
DECEMBER 2, 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 Roepke, Thomas Mielke, and Kevin Grove.**
- Others Present: Jim Borka Seasonal plow driver, Midthun's, & Noeldner's, Jeanne Vogt & Dan Tienter with Elers.

2. Approval of Agenda

- Consider Approval of Agenda – **Grove moved and Mielke 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 – OPEN TNT PUBLIC HEARING 7:01 PM by Mayor Shirley Jaeger.

- Ehlers – Dan Tienter and Jeanne Vogt presented the 2026 Final Levy, noting that there are no changes from the preliminary levy established in August. They reported that the net levy amount for taxpayers has decreased by \$138.00 compared to 2025, resulting in a tax rate reduction of -2.60%. The presentation included the formal adoption of Resolution 2025-15, which approves the 2026 Levy.
Grove moved and Roepke second approving Resolution 2025-15. The motion carried. 5/0
Mielke moved and Grove second, closed the public hearing at 7:06 PM. The motion carried. 5/0
- Misc
 - MN Paid Leave – moved under Clerk report.
 - Review 2026 Meeting dates – moved under Clerk report.
 - Review Fee schedule – moved under Clerk report.

Officers'/Department/Staff Reports

- Fire Department Report
 - Fire Chief Goede, Gambling Relief donation to Concession stand improvements for \$15,000, donation \$21-23,000 to the Truck and Building Capital Fund.
 - Tournament date of July 31, August 1 & 2, band from 8PM – 11 PM, permit for Fire Works, check into the insurance. Looking for Sponsorships for the bands.
 - Generator project – changing the overhead service, waiting on a date from Xcel for the switchover.
 - Four new fire fighters completed and have passed the EMR class; next will be Fire Fighter 1.
 - The Fire Department is scheduled to conduct a training session on electric vehicle (EV) safety on March 16, to be held in Mayer. The training will be facilitated by an instructor from Jordan and will last for 4 hours. The total cost of the training is \$3,800; however, each fire department will receive an \$800 discount through grant funds, effectively lowering the cost. Additionally, it may be necessary to purchase a fire blanket as part of the training materials or safety equipment. Completed annual inspections of face pieces, air flow packs.
 - Elections – New Germany Fire Department elections are as follows; Chief Ryan Goede, Asst. Chief Chris Barlau, 1st Captain & Secretary Alex Kurtz, 2nd Captain Nick Ericson, 3rd Captain Dane Wagner.
Mielke moved and Grove second approving the elections results from the New Germany Fire Department. The motion carried. 5/0
- Parks
 - Lindstrom Park sign reviewed.
 - Posts are in for the netting in Baseball Park.
- Water/Sewer – During the recent discussion on the Ehlers Utility Rate Study, Jeanne presented the proposed utility rate increases for 2026, which included a 2.50% increase for water rates and a 9.0% increase for sewer rates. The council expressed concerns regarding the financial strain this 9% hike could impose on the New Germany residents, particularly given that many may find it difficult to absorb such a significant increase, especially considering the current pause on the associated project. Ehlers acknowledged the challenges of implementing the proposed rates when projects are not advancing, which further complicates the situation for residents. In response to these concerns, it was decided that Jeanne would bring alternative options for consideration to the upcoming meeting scheduled for December 16. This collaborative approach aims to explore more sustainable and manageable solutions for the community's utility rates.



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Officers'/Department/Staff Reports Cont'd

- Public Works –
During the discussion regarding the plow truck, it was noted that there is a safety issue concerning the current lighting. The headlights are not providing adequate illumination for safe plowing operations. To improve visibility, the installation of a light bar on the plow was proposed as a potential solution. Paul Roepke has been assigned to evaluate the existing lights and explore options for enhancements to ensure safer conditions during snow removal activities. Further updates will follow based on his findings.
Sheriff Report – no additional report.
- Misc – nothing additional.
- Clerk Report
 - MN Paid Leave – FD signed the forms 12/1/25, Council signed, other employees have completed the forms as required.
 - Review 2026 Meeting dates – reviewed.
 - Review Fee schedule – Council went through the fee schedule and made changes accordingly.
 - Few blight letters were sent out for expired tabs.
 - Working on pay equity report.
 - Will be starting the FD W-2 as they were paid in January of 2025.
 - Working on the wetland with Joe Lemmerman and SEH.
- Building Permit – no update

6. Consent Agenda

- Consider Approval of November 18, 2025, Council Minutes
- Consider Approval of Claims for Payment
- Consider Approval of Financial Reports

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

7. Old Business

- Misc – nothing additional.

8. Mayor City Council Reports

- Council member Kevin Grove – nothing additional.
- Council member Thomas Mielke – nothing additional.
- Council member Paul Roepke – Baseball Club will be renting the hall for 2026.
- Council member Lorn Hermann – nothing additional.
- Mayor Shirley Jaeger – Santa coming to town on Saturday

9. Adjourn City Council Meeting – Grove moved and Mielke second adjourning the meeting at 8:35 PM. The motion carried. 5/0

Respectfully submitted by Twyla Menth, City Clerk