



CITY OF NEW GERMANY- CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 6, 2026 – 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; Paul Roepke, Thomas Mielke, Kevin Grove, and Lorn Herrmann. Others were present: Justin Black with SEH, Ryan Goede Fire Chief, Chris Barlau Asst Fire Chief & PW, Jim Borka Snow Removal PW, and Twyla Menth City Clerk.**

2. Approval of Agenda

- Consider Approval of Agenda – Add FD wages to the agenda under Staff Report. **Mielke moved and Herrmann second approving the addition to 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

- Justin Black from SEH was present. Justin gave a brief overview of what SEH provides for the city; SEH has provided city engineering and planning services since 2017; SEH is based in Hutchinson. Currently, the planning portion of SEH is advising on wetland delineation for the Lemmermann proposal. Jessica Hedin is the wastewater advisor with SEH. Jessica has been instrumental in pursuing the 2026 Bonding bill for funding wastewater facility upgrades. Justin presented the \$8,000 annual engineering services agreement for 2026, unchanged from last year.

Grove moved and Mielke second approving the 2026 Engineering Services budget amount with SEH.

The motion carried. 5/0

Discussion on when the city would be ready for more homes; 2-3 years, was Justin guess, all dependent on financing.

- Resolution 2026-01 Organizational Summary – **Roepke moved and Mielke second approving Resolution 2026-01. The motion carried. 5/0**
- Amend Resolution 2025-19, line #8 Internal Fire Truck Loan payment of \$13,080.00 – **Grove moved and Mielke second approving Resolution 2025-19 amendment. The motion carried. 5/0**
- 2026 Pay Equity Report – every three years. **Grove moved and Roepke second approving the MN Pay Equity Report. The motion carried. 5/0.**

Officers'/Department/Staff Reports

- Fire Department Report
FD wages – At their October 2024 monthly meeting, the Fire Department (FD) voted to raise pay for calls and trainings in the 2025 annual payroll. While the FD members passed this motion, the City Council, the only body authorized to approve FD wage increases—did discuss a proposal of an hourly wage as a firefighter incentive but did not make a motion or take any action to approve the 2025 pay raise.

Mielke moved and Grove second to increase Fire Department wages from \$10 per call to \$15, Training pay increase from \$5 to \$10, 2025 FD annual payroll will reflect these increases on January 7, 2026, payroll. The motion carried. 5/0

2025 Report by Fire Chief Ryan Goede - 82 calls.

The generator has been installed; due to the hospitalization of the Frontier employee previously assigned to this project, Frontier is arranging for another representative to complete their portion of the installation. Frontier is working to schedule a representative as soon as possible and will provide an updated completion date once it is confirmed.

Generator service contractor annual 1-year \$449, 3 -year, \$1348, 5-year \$2248. Start in January of 2027 then all three generators are on the same rotation.

Baseball Team – The ball club will manage the games during the FD Tournament at ST Mark's Fellowship Center is the verbal agreement. The city will issue payment for the insurance; the Ball Club will donate for the insurance.

Further procedural review with Ehlers and report back to Council.

Discussion on the FD building and HVAC; no outcome or action taken.

- Parks – Parks treasure report was reviewed.
- Water/Sewer – nothing additional.
- Public Works
 - Annual Noxious Weed Report – Paul completed and executed the form.
 - Public Works will be out cleaning the streets up tomorrow reported Chris Barlau.



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Officers'/Department/Staff Reports cont'd.

- Public Works cont'd
 - Jim Borka mentioned safety concerns with the bobcat floor jack is 3.5-ton, discussion on type of floor jack needed. Borka also mentioned picking up a slow-moving vehicle for the bobcat. Borka questioned trimming trees; if encroaching the city ROW, we have the right to trim the trees. Trees need to be trimmed by Steve Rademacher property. Collen Roepke's evergreen trees should be trimmed too reported Borka.
- Sheriff Report – no report.
- Misc – nothing additional.
- Clerk Report
 - MN Paid Leave software update is completed; payroll deductions configured.
 - Year-end reports are in progress, with completion expected in the next few weeks.
 - Office transition to 2026 is underway.
 - Auditor scheduled for January 27-28, 2026.
 - Electrical switches, outlet covers have been purchased, need to be installed throughout the hall.
 - Safety meeting in Waconia on Thursday.
- Building Permit – 271 State Avenue S, door replacement.

6. Consent Agenda

- Consider Approval of December 16, 2025, Council Minutes
- Consider Approval of Claims for Payment
- Consider Approval of Financial Reports

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

7. Old Business

- Insurance – equipment breakdown coverage, Council will pass.

8. Mayor City Council Reports

- Council member Kevin Grove – nothing additional.
- Council member Kevin Grove – nothing additional.
- Council member Thomas Mielke – nothing additional.
- Council member Paul Roepke – nothing additional
- Council member Lorn Hermann - nothing additional
- Mayor Shirley Jaeger – nothing additional

9. Adjourn City Council Meeting – Roepke moved and Grove second adjourning the meeting at 7:47 PM. The motion carried. 5/0

Respectfully submitted by Twyla Menth, City Clerk.