



HAMBURG CITY COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 29, 2022

Mayor Lund called the Hamburg City Council Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Those in attendance were: Councilmembers Jason Buckentin, Eric Poppler, Tim Tracy and Jessica Weber, City Clerk Jeremy Gruenhagen, City Attorney Kelly Dohm, and Brandon Bracht and Brad Droege.

Public Comment

Brandon Bracht, former City of Hamburg employee, discussed possible violations of 13D Open Meeting Law that have allegedly taken place by the Hamburg City Council. He talked to the person who helps cities with open meeting law (he could not remember their name) at the Data Practices Office. Brandon stated he is asking for his average wages to be paid through the end of this year from the date he was terminated, as well as vacation pay and sick pay that he would have acquired during that time in order for the city to avoid court and/or a lawsuit against the City. The violations he discussed were the two closed meetings and the one open meeting, during which time he was alleging the City violated the open meeting law. Brandon stated there was no mention of any disciplinary action against an employee (City Clerk) at the last meeting and if disciplinary action was taken you have to say what it was; if no disciplinary action you do not have to say anything. He said the City Council did things correctly if no disciplinary action was taken. Mayor Lund asked for the date and time of the meeting he is referring to. Brandon could not remember. Council provided the date as September 27. Mayor Lund confirmed there was no disciplinary action taken against the employee he was referring to (City Clerk) and therefore no violation.

Brandon said there were text messages about a public employee being terminated, which is a violation of the open meeting law. Mayor Lund asked if in his packet of documents there was mention of termination. Brandon read certain text messages. Mayor Lund asked if Brandon could confirm whether a conclusion was made as to termination. Brandon did not find any text messages confirming a decision to terminate had been reached.

Brandon asked why he wasn't placed on the agenda. City Clerk Gruenhagen informed Brandon via phone and email that agenda packets require written information to be submitted in advance. Because no written information was provided in advance as to what Brandon was asking for the City Council to take action on, he was not placed on the agenda. Mayor Lund explained that even though he was not specifically placed on the agenda, the City Council provided him more than the normal two-minute public speaking time to speak during the City Council meeting.



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Agenda Review (Added Items) and Adoption

MOTION: Councilmember Jessica Weber moved to approve the Agenda as written. Seconded by Councilmember Tim Tracy. Motion was approved by all members present.

Consent Agenda

- Approve Added Claims List for November (\$56,223.48)
- Approve Letter of Support (Hwy 212 & Co Hwy 51)
- Approve Letter of Support (Hwy 5 Arboretum Area Project)
- Approve Time-Off Request (Jeremy Gruenhagen)
- City Offices Closed November 24th & 25th for Thanksgiving

MOTION: Councilmember Jason Buckentin moved to approve the Consent Agenda as written. Seconded by Councilmember Jessica Weber. Motion was approved by all present.

Hamburg Fire Department – Chief Siewert

- 2023 HFD Budget Items
 - Chief Siewert not present, tabled to next meeting.

Old City Business (Memo)

- Water Main Improvements Quotes (Old Water Tower)
 - Received quotes from the Engineers \$73,390, Schneider Excavating \$79,013 and Dube's Contracting \$90,760. \$50,000 currently in the budget. Previously discuss to use reserve monies of cover the expense. Tabled to budget process.

New City Business

- General Maintenance Worker Position/Deputy Clerk Position
 - Conducted four interviews for the General Maintenance Worker position. Personnel Committee would like to provide a contingent offer for employment to the top candidate, Curtis Sagstetter.
 - **MOTION: Councilmember Tim Tracey moved to provide contingent offer of employment for the General Maintenance Worker Position to Curtis Sagstetter. Seconded by Councilmember Jessica Weber. Motion was approved by all members present.**
 - Setting up interviews for the five Deputy Clerk position candidates this week or early next week.
- 2023 Final Budget/2023 Final Property Tax Levy/2023 City Fee Schedule
 - Health Insurance Rates/Cost Analysis
 - Budget Items for 2022/2023



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- Preliminary Budget currently set at 9.92%. Clerk removed \$18,000 for street seal coating and crack repairs. The next phase for the streets in the 7-year plan would start in 2024, tabled until then. Health insurance was adjusted to reflect costs in the 2023 budget.
- Wish List Items removed from 2023 Preliminary Budget:
 - Gas power pressure washer ~ \$600/removed
 - Grass lawn sweeper ~ \$400/removed
 - Shelving for shop ~ \$500/removed
 - Mulch kit ~ \$500/removed
 - Tools ~ \$3,000 reduced to \$2,000
 - Shop tool box ~ \$1,000/removed
 - Diamond dust ~ \$2,500/Removed
 - With the items removed, the Preliminary Budget was reduced 2%.
 - Council would like the max budget increase to be at 4-5%. City Clerk Gruenhagen to work on tax levy increase and provide details at next meeting.
- 2023 City Fee Schedule
 - Suggested increase:
 - Hall rentals – Increase by \$200
 - Local rentals for local businesses/benefits to \$425
 - Election Judges to \$14-\$15/Hr.
 - Water/Sewer/Storm Water Rates (Set with 2023 Budget)
 - Contact other cities for comparison on increasing accident service charges/fire call rates.

City Council Reports

- Councilmember Jason Buckentin (Streets) had nothing to report
- Councilmember Eric Poppler (Parks) had nothing to report
- Councilmember Jessica Weber (Buildings) had nothing to report
- Councilmember Tim Tracy (Water/Sewer) had nothing to report
- Mayor Chris Lund – Mayor's In Time is Monday, December 5, 5:00pm-7:00pm.



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Recess City Council Meeting

MOTION: Councilmember Jason Buckentin moved to Recess City Council Meeting at 5:59 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Eric Poppler. Motion was approved by all members present.

Move to Closed Meeting(s) for the purpose of Employee Evaluation(s) [Unless any employee requests an Open Meeting for his/her evaluation. Any Open Meeting for Employee Evaluation(s) shall be held prior to any Closed Meeting for Employee Evaluation(s)]

MOTION: Councilmember Jason Buckentin moved to Close Closed Meeting for Employee Evaluation at 6:23pm. Seconded by Councilmember Eric Poppler. Motion was approved by all members present.

Move to Close Meeting pursuant to MN State Statute 13D.05, Subd. 3 (b)

MOTION: Councilmember Jason Buckentin moved to Close Meeting pursuant to MN State Statute 13D.05, Subd. 3 (b) at 6:30m. Seconded by Councilmember Eric Poppler. Motion was approved by all members present.

Move to Close Closed Meeting

MOTION: Councilmember Eric Poppler moved to Close Closed Meeting at 7:16 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Jason Buckentin. Motion was approved by all members present.

Move to Reopen the City Council Meeting

MOTION: Councilmember Jessica Weber moved to Reopen the City Council Meeting at 7:20m. Seconded by Councilmember Tim Tracy. Motion was approved by all members present.

Employee Wages/Health Insurance Coverage for 2023

- **Jeremy Gruenhagen**
 - Jeremy Gruenhagen overall exceeded expectations of performance in 2022. Council discussed to increase employee's wages 4%. City covers health insurance premium and half of the deductible which remains the same as 2022.
 - **MOTION: Councilmember Tim Tracy moved to increase City Clerk Jeremy Gruenhagen 2023 annual salary 4% for 2023. Seconded by Councilmember Eric Poppler. Motion was approved by all members present.**



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- **MOTION: Councilmember Tim Tracy moved to maintain the same health insurance coverage for City Clerk Jeremy Gruenhagen in 2023 as in 2022. Seconded by Councilmember Jessica Weber. Motion was approved by all members present.**

MOTION: Councilmember Jason Buckentin moved to adjourn the City Council Meeting at 7:27pm. Seconded by Councilmember Jessica Weber. Motion was approved by all members present.

Amended/Approved on March 1, 2023



Jeremy Gruenhagen
City Clerk/Treasurer

