



**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**  
**Wednesday, July 17, 2024, at 6:00 PM**  
City Hall, 2110 Washington St, New Holstein, WI 53061

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Council President Woelfel.

**ROLL CALL:**

Roll call was taken. Present were Gene Woelfel, Richard Snelson, Steven Abrams, Eric Mayer (via Teams), Robert Schermetzler, Norman Propson, Brad Hess, and Becca Mosier (via Teams). Also, present were City Attorney Sorenson, Police Chief Eric Fisher, Police Captain Chuck Schroeder, Fire Chief Craig Carey, Public Works Director Jason Meyer, City Administrator Cullen Peltier, New Holstein Utilities GM Marc Stephanie, and Emergency Management Director Russ Thiel.

**GUESTS:** Mark Sherry, Lisa Jacobson, Steve Settle, John Klinzing, Joe McShaw, Marci McShaw, Jessica Fisher, Kelly Ausloos, Michelle Feuerstein, Mark Growe, and Kathy Schroeder.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

A motion was made by Watson, seconded by Snelson, and carried to approve the agenda as presented.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Schermetzler, seconded by Watson, and carried to approve the July 2, 2024; Committee of the Whole minutes as presented.

**CITIZEN INPUT:** John Klinzing (2308 Hickory Ln) read a letter from his wife that was submitted to the Council. The letter explained how the sewage backup of July 5<sup>th</sup>, impacted their residence and encouraged the City Council to take actions to prevent this in the future. John also explained his observations from the event. Kelly Ausloos (2312 Hickory Ln) stated there are no words to describe what they went through. Michelle Feuerstein (2311 Hickory Ln) stated the damage was substantial and they would like to know where the liability is, where they stand, and what is next for the residents.

**FINANCE AND PURCHASING:**

- a. 1 The monthly invoices, and financial report for the month ending June 2024 were presented. A motion was made by Abrams, seconded by Snelson, and carried to recommend to the Common Council to approve the invoices as presented and accept the financial report as presented.

**PROTECTIONS OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY:** None

**CITY BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS:** None

**RECREATION DIRECTORS:** None

**PERSONNEL:**

Peltier provided an update on the vacant DPW positions. The positions have been posted and they have received numerous qualified candidates. They've completed an initial review and hope to have the positions filled by the end of August.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Utilities Commission President John Klinzing provided a report on the sewage back up of July 5<sup>th</sup>. John provided his credentials and provided an overview of what he observed while out with Utilities staff on the night of the event. A copy of his narrative and recommendations were shared, and it was noted the Council was provided the document via Google Drive. John stated the event was primarily caused by storm infiltration and possibly due to line sizing prior to city development. An emergency solution should include the City/Utilities investing in large pumps to be able to pump from manholes to alleviate the pressure on the system. This will be added to the next Utilities Commission agenda. A permanent solution would be installing an 8" overflow line from manhole 1 to manhole 4.
- b. Peltier explained that he was looking for guidance on employee wage increases for 2025 so they could start developing the budget. He explained that they had conducted a wage study to determine if the employees' wages were comparable to similar communities. He reviewed the spreadsheet and provided options for review and the estimated associated costs. The options include increasing wages for each position based on how far the wages were from the average of the comparable positions. The other options were for across the board 2,3, and 4 percent wage increases. After discussion amongst Council, the direction was to use the amount of money estimated for the 3% wage increase and base the wage increases for individual positions based off the difference from the average of the comparable positions.
- c. Russ Thiel opened the discussion explaining some additional options were added by Robert E Lee (REL) since the last meeting. The floor was opened for discussion and Joe McShaw provided his insight. Joe recommended that the City work on their issue, and it was up to the Town of New Holstein to deal with the water how they choose. He encouraged the City, residents, and businesses to do our part to ensure we are not pushing our water issues on to someone else. Mayor Snelson stated he has spoken with the Town, and we need to sit down with the Town to determine cost sharing. Jared from REL reviewed the 3 new options. Joe suggested the City review its ordinances regarding stormwater management. Joe asked the council if they were willing to move forward more quickly if there were a cost share between him and the city, foregoing the grant. Russ stated the grant could take a couple years. The committee will review all the options and bring the top options back to Council.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm by Council President Woelfel.

Cullen Peltier, City Administrator