

Finlayson City Council  
Regular Meeting  
August 9, 2021

The regular city council meeting was called to order Monday, August 9, 2021 by Tom Price, Mayor at 6:30 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Members present: Jeremy Byers, Nadine Hedtke, Mike Drahosh and Joe Luedtke.

Others present: Wyatt Lucht, Russ Lucht, John Mikrot, Barb Morgan, Bill Morgan, Josh Martin, Bruce Beckman, Steve Christensen and Paul Troskey.

Complaints/Petitions: Jacob Makela submitted a complaint about Jamie Southwick taking his winning pull tab at the bar. Council agrees matter is a civil issue not involving the bar or bartenders.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Drahosh to approve minutes from the June 14, 2021 regular council meeting and July 12, 2021 regular council meeting, seconded by Hedtke with all in favor and carried.

Reports:

Fire Department: Chief Wyatt Lucht reported that July had 19 calls totaling 147 man hours. Five fire calls, two motor vehicle accidents, 11 rescue calls and one water recovery. The new pumper truck is awaiting valves but will be delivered the week of August 18<sup>th</sup>. Finlayson Giese Lion's are requesting use of the fire hall during St. Urho's day for a craft fair, council approves use so long as there is no cooking in the fire hall.

John Mikrot, Water/Sewer Operator: Mikrot indicated that there were no issues to report. Contract is up for renewal with no wage increase but increase in jetting to \$200, See New Business A.

Zoning and Planning: See new business C.

Nicole Bjorklund, City Administrator: Bjorklund gave an overview of the Liquor store financials stating July 2021 had historic sales over \$100K and had a \$16,000 profit with our YTD profit at \$36,000. MN Dept of Health tested the hand pump at Victor Schafer Memorial Park again and as expected it failed. The suggestion was made to remove the handle so the public cannot use the pump and retest again in the spring. Due to some individuals camping at Victor Schafer Memorial Park, the council is requesting signage to indicate no overnight camping, Bjorklund to order sign.

A motion was made by Hedtke to accept July financials and pay bills seconded by Drahosh with all in favor and carried.

Old business:

- A. Fire truck – Paul Troskey from Northview Bank explained the financial details of the loan and when payments are due for the purchase resolution 2021-03. Mayor Price and Bjorklund will go to the bank on Monday, August 16<sup>th</sup> at 9am to finalize the closing documents. Motion to approve Resolution 2021-03 by Drahosh, seconded by Hedtke with all in favor and carried.
- B. Public works position has been posted and four applicants have submitted applications. Interview committee will consist of Drahosh and Hedtke with interviews being conducted on August 24th. The results of the interviews will be brought to the September council meeting for a decision on a candidate.
- C. Bids for the Creamery building demolition have come in significantly higher than expected and it is not financially possible for the City to spend money on with no positive outcome of the project. Bjorklund to ask the attorney if we can just board it up or fence it in to make it safe yet not have to do the demolition at a high cost to the City.
- D. Bjorklund attended a meeting regarding the ARPA Funds and discovered that there are wider guidelines than originally indicated. Therefore, we will be applying for the funds as we have until 2024 to plan to spend them and 2026 to actually spend them. They suggest using them for improvements on water and sewer and other areas where residents would benefit.

New business:

- A. Mikrot supplied the City Council with a contract renewal for the next three years. The only change in the contract is jetting cost increasing to \$200/hr. A motion to approve the contract was given by Drahosh, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried.
- B. The Community Center is in need of a new HVAC system. The Finlayson Giese Lion's and Wagner Township are requesting the City of Finlayson to contribute a portion of the replacement. Wagner Township indicated that they will be using the ARPA funds and suggested that we do the same. Bjorklund to find out the amount being requested.
- C. Northern Contractors has submitted a building permit application for Lucht at the north end of Broadway St. A motion to approve the application given by Luedtke, seconded by Drahosh with all in favor and carried.
- D. Bjorklund advised the Council that the double door freezer in the bar stopped working, again. Bjorklund discussed with Price when it occurred on July 22. Due to the continued breakdown and loss of product each time, Price and Bjorklund agreed that we need a new freezer and one was ordered. A claim was submitted to the insurance company and we will be reimbursed for the product and the cost of repair

to put towards the new unit. Council confirms decision was appropriate for business purposes.

- E. Small City Assistance in the Amount of \$16,218 has been approved by MNDOT at all small cities. We have received \$8,109 in July with the remaining to be paid in December. These funds are only to be used for roadway maintenance and construction. Council advises Bjorklund to place an ad for bids for both gravel and black top to determine which way we would like to spend the money.

A motion made by Luedtke to adjourn, seconded by Drahosh with all in favor and carried.

Nicole Bjorklund, City Clerk/Administrator