

Finlayson City Council
Regular Meeting
December 9, 2019

The regular city council meeting was called to order Monday, December 9, 2019 by Tom Price, Mayor at 6:30 PM.

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

Others present: John Mikrot III, Wyatt Lucht, Alanea White, Mark Molloy and Rodney Ocepek.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Byers to approve minutes from November 12, 2019 regular council meeting, seconded by Drahosh with all in favor and carried.

Addition: H: Althoff and Nordquist 2020 Contract

Complaints:

1. Resident complains of township not taking care to ensure all dirt roads are graded the same and Sherman Road seems to be an after-thought. Resident is having to take alternate route to get to town. Bjorklund to discuss with township to ensure all roads are cared for as necessary.
2. During recent snow storms residents have been left with several feet high snow banks blocking their driveways after streets have been plowed. It has been agreed to try on Finland Ave to wind row the snow to the center of the road and haul it away. On other roads it was been agreed to try to plow it as normal but go back and open the blocked driveways with the snow equipment. We will not be plowing driveways but merely opening them up from where the snow is blocking them completely shut with several feet of solid snow.

Reports:

Fire Department: Chief Wyatt Lucht reported that November had three medical calls and three fire calls, two of which were mutual aid (one was cancelled) and one total lose house fire, for a total of 126.75 man hours. Four radios were sent in for repairs as they were needing realignment to the property frequencies. These specific radios are no longer going to be serviceable by the manufacturer as of Jan 1, 2020 so the city and other agencies will need to look for a new radio when replacements are needed.

John Mikrot, Water/Sewer Operator: Mikrot informed the council the media has been recharged at the treatment facility and the tower is at half capacity for the winter. Pump #1 at the lift station failed and MN Pump has replaced it with a temporary one until the old one could be repaired. Pump #2 had the same issue last year. Each time a pump has to be removed and repaired and then replaced, it is two trip charges which are very costly, approximately \$1000 each trip not including the labor to do the work. Mikrot recommends getting a new pump as a backup for

situations like this so it can be installed at the time the old pump is removed then the old pump would come back on the next scheduled trip to our area, avoiding additional trip charges. The estimated cost for a new pump is \$9-10K. Mikrot to obtain a firm quote.

Zoning and Planning: No issues to discuss at this time.

Nicole Bjorklund, City Administrator: Bjorklund gave an overview of the Liquor store financials stating November 2019 had a net income of nearly \$12,000. Also, the year to date net income is just over \$76,000 indicating another good year for the liquor store/bar with all of December sales being a bonus. We are struggling to find the right additional cleaning person to add to our staff, we have had two people start and quit within 2 days because the work was too physical for them. Two heating units approved in October were purchased for just under \$1000 and await installation. The floors in the liquor store/bar are in need to resurfacing or repair. Bjorklund to contact original flooring vendor and get a quote.

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

Old Business:

New business:

- A. The annual contract was received from the City attorney, Ledin, Hofstad and Troth with the rate remaining at \$165 per hour. A motion was made by Drahosh to agree to the contract, seconded by Byers with all in favor and carried.
- B. Resolution 2019-09 is for the final tax levy. A motion was made by Byers to pass the resolution, seconded by Hedtke with all in favor and carried.
- C. LMC liability insurance limit waiver was signed by motion from Hedtke, seconded by Byers with all in favor and carried.
- D. Snow removal equipment is not performing the way we need it to or the way it should be and is becoming costly for the city and residents. Wyatt Lucht, who works part time to help remove snow, looked into some used tractors/big equipment that would be better suited for the city. After several discussions, it is has been agreed to check into maintenance for the current tractor and see what is wrong with it because when we got it 5 years ago it worked great. Additionally, the new plow truck doesn't haul much snow compared to the old one and the recent heavy amounts of snow is slowing down the operations. Craig Skaff has indicated he would be available on call for hauling of snow for a rate of \$100 per hour with a 3 hour minimum. In years passed the city would pile snow to the edge of Creamery Lake at the end of S. Broadway St. This section is now being occupied by Finlayson Ag Store's equipment. Bjorklund will send a letter to the Ag Store to have them remove the equipment so we can again access that area.

- E. Bjorklund presented a budget of employee raises to the council. This included a new minimum wage for the bartenders of \$11/hr and \$13/hr for the cleaning staff as well as a maximum wage for the bartenders of \$16/hr. A motion was made by Drahosh to accept the wage budget, seconded by Hedtke with all in favor and carried.

- F. Triple Crown Gambling has approached the Lion's and the City proposing to sell electronic pull tabs at the bar in addition to the paper pull tabs we currently have. There would be no cost to the City with the exception of the "bank" of money to start with for payouts. The Lion's would be responsible for the reporting and managing of the pull tab business as they currently do. The bartenders would be responsible for loading the iPads with the money the customer wishes to use for pull tabs and for paying out at the end of the gambling time if the customer wins. There is 85% pay out of the games with 15% profits to the bar/City. The Lion's would then receive their profits after all the taxes and fees are paid. Acceptance of the electronic pull tab selling was passed by motion from Drahosh, seconded by Hedtke with all in favor and carried.

- G. Closed session

- H. The annual contract was received from the City auditor, Althoff and Nordquist with the rate increase to not exceed \$12,450. A motion was made by Drahosh to agree to the contract, seconded by Byers with all in favor and carried.

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

Nicole Bjorklund, City Clerk/Administrator