

Finlayson City Council
Regular Meeting
January 13, 2020

The regular city council meeting was called to order Monday, January 13, 2020 by Tom Price, Mayor at 6:30 PM.

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

Others present: John Mikrot, Wyatt Lucht, Bill Morgan, Barb Morgan, Vickie Oetterer, Dave Schaefer, Bruce Nelson, Erik Nelson, Rick Palmer, Bev Mensing, Ethan Bjorklund and Tami Riedeman.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Drahosh to approve minutes from December 9, 2019 regular council meeting, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried.

Addition: H: Donations to Fire Dept

Complaints:

1. Erik Nelson is attending the meeting on behalf of his wife related to a verbal altercation that took place at the bar between his wife, Crystal Nelson, and Dianne Olson and Nicole and Ethan Bjorklund. Erik indicated that they felt the exchange between the parties was rude and other customers were uneasy about the event and that Nicole was out of line in indicating her position as manager and indicating that she could have then cut off and kicked out of the bar. Mayor Price indicated that Nicole was in the bar as a patron and was able to stand up for herself and her job when she was being attacked verbally. Erik feels that the situation was out of line and should have been handled differently. Drahosh advises that when there are complaints or information exchanges needing clarification, that it should be handled during business hours and not brought up at the bar under the influence. Mayor Price advised Erik that Crystal needs to call Tom to discuss the situation in her own words as Erik was not present at the bar when the incident occurred.

Reports:

Fire Department: Chief Wyatt Lucht reported that December had seven medical calls and one mutual aid fire call, for a total of 43 man hours. Township Fire Contract meeting was held on January 9th with 4 townships attending. There will be a mutual aid meeting that the Fire Dept is hosting on January 16th. The new stair chair was been received and put into service. The Fire Dept is looking to purchase an ATV trailer in the near future to haul both 4wheelers. Price is working on the 700 4wheeler to get it operational.

John Mikrot, Water/Sewer Operator: A formal quote was received for the requested back-up pump for the lift station at nearly \$9,000. This does not include an extra parts or freight. The

purchase of the new pump would reduce the risk of a loaner one not being available from the service company. The current pump that is being serviced should be available in the next week or two. Mikrot will speak with the pump company to determine the typical life span of a pump. It is believed that the pumps at the lift station are around 15 years old.

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

Nicole Bjorklund, City Administrator: Bjorklund gave an overview of the Liquor store financials stating 2019 had a net income of nearly \$85,000. Sales for 2019 compared to 2018 were up 8.34%. Bjorklund recommended a transfer from the Liquor Store Fund to the General Fund of \$40,000. A motion was made by Drahosh to approve the transfer, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried. Bjorklund stated year-end inventory went well. Training on the electronic pull tabs will be January 14th and one additional training session to be scheduled for those not able to attend the current training. Kelly Schroeder from the P.C. Auditor's office has sent out letters to the registered voters in the city notifying them of a meeting on January 27th from 3-7pm where they can ask questions and get information on the new mail ballot voting system.

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

Old Business:

New business:

- A. Resolution 2020-01 for annual appointments passed by motion from Byers, seconded by Hedtke with all in favor and carried.
- B. Ordinance 155 – Fee Schedule has been updated to include snow removal at a cost of \$75 per incident when residents push snow from their property into the street or on the sidewalks and we have to remove it. A motion was made by Hedtke to accept and pass the updated ordinance, seconded by Drahosh with all in favor and carried.
- C. The Lion's have submitted an off-site gambling application for bingo at the Community Center for March 20, 2020 for St. Urho's. A motion was made by Luedtke to accept the application, seconded by Drahosh with all in favor and carried.
- D. The Lion's have submitted an application for a temporary liquor license for March 20-21, 2020 for the St. Urho's celebration at the Community Center. A motion was made by Drahosh, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried.
- E. Dave Schaefer has indicated that the old municipal building will possibly be coming up for sale in the near future and has offered first bids to the City if they would be interested in purchasing it back. Schaefer did discuss with his bank and it is possible to do a Contract for Deed. The approximate selling price would be \$150,000. The City would possibly be able to use it as an extension of the City garage and have

storage space options. Decision is tabled until Schaefer makes a definitive decision to sell.

- F. Joe Luedtke asked Bjorklund to look into why Seven Oaks Lane has not been maintained by the City even though it is in City limits. Bjorklund found that Seven Oak Lane is a private road. The residents on Seven Oaks Lane have requested that we look into the process of potentially having it become a public road so that maintenance and plowing would be the City responsibility so residents wouldn't have to continue hiring someone to plow the road. Due to the fact that the road was originally a driveway, it would require reconstruction to bring it up to code for a public road. Because of the cost and extent of a project like that, the City would need to involve the City Attorney and an engineering firm and then would possibly assess the initial cost to those residents. Bjorklund will check with the township to see if they would be willing to plow it for a fee to the residents instead of the City making it a public road.
- G. Post Office improvements have been requested from the Postmaster per the contract. Painting is to be done at least once every five years and has not been done in some time and they are requesting that. The floor is in tough condition in the back of the post office and they are also requesting replacement of that. Vickie Oetterer, a former Postmaster at the Finlayson Post Office, indicated that we should re-read the contract and follow it closely. It likely does not indicate that we are responsible for the flooring but she does confirm, as does Bjorklund, that the paint is a requirement in the contract. Bjorklund to review the contract and follow up.
- H. Ethan Bjorklund presented the Fire Department incident command jackets on behalf of the MN DOC.

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

Nicole Bjorklund, City Clerk/Administrator