

Finlayson City Council
Regular Meeting
January 14, 2019

The regular city council meeting was called to order Monday, January 14, 2019 by Ed Cowart, Mayor at 6:30 PM.

Oath of Office was administered to Ed Cowart as the mayor, Joe Luedtke, Jeremy Byers and Mike Drahosh as council members.

Council Members present: Joe Luedtke, Jeremy Byers, Tom Price and Mike Drahosh

Others present: Wyatt Lucht, Russ Lucht, Bill Morgan, Barb Morgan, Alanea White, John Mikrot, Bev Mensing, George Slama

Additions or Corrections: G. Lions – Gambling,
 H. Sportsman’s fishing event and gun raffle event

Approval of Minutes:

A motion by Price to approve minutes from December 10, 2018 regular council meeting, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried.

Reports:

Fire Department: Nicole Bjorklund reported that the Hi-Viz vests that were order are now in use for the fire department. Tom Price reported that 27 SCBA units and 50 tanks were donated by the Garrison Fire Department. Chief Lucht signed a release form from the Garrison Fire Department relieving them of any fault for the SCBA units. A resolution will be drafted for the next meeting to accept the donation and show appreciation for the generosity of the Garrison Fire Department to donate the units.

John Mikrot, Water/Sewer Operator: Mikrot reported that MRWA reviewed the water numbers for the potential leak in the water system. They recommend using Water Conservation Services to potentially locate any leaks in our system. Should that option not locate any leaks, they then recommend replacing water meters at the residents.

Zoning and Planning:

Nicole Bjorklund City Administrator: Bjorklund gave an overview of the Liquor store financials stating December 2018 had a net income of over \$8,800 for the month and a fiscal 2018 net income of approximately \$40,500 which will be finalized during the annual audit by Althoff and Nordquist. Also, fiscal 2018 total sales for the liquor store were nearly \$760,000, which is an all-time high for the liquor store. Inventory went as planned on January 1st with approximately 10 counts being verified by Robert Nordquist of Althoff and Nordquist. Bjorklund indicated she has received notification and a formal complaint regarding a comment made by a bartender at the bar which ended up being twisted and spread into lies. A reply to the complaint will be sent to clarify the situation. A complaint was received from a citizen that tripped and fell on the sidewalk next

to the post office/city hall building. This part of the sidewalk has been an issue for a few years and needs to be addressed in the spring/summer.

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

Old Business:

- A. Ziegler nuisance animals – a message has been received as of 1/9/19 from the resident indicating that they have received the notification. She further indicated that the pig has been removed from the property and that the family will all be advised of the situation with the dogs needing to be under control. However, an additional resident visited City Hall today (1/14/19) with a complaint regarding the dogs indicating that they have been on his property as recent as today and show signs of aggression towards him. Bjorklund will be in contact with the attorney to discuss our next steps as the dogs are not under control.
- B. Water leak detection – Bjorklund to contact Water Conservation Services to request an updated quote as the most current quote is from April 2018. A motion was made by Byers to approve Water Conservation Services to provide the leak detection services, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried.

New business:

- A. Resolution 2019-01 Annual Appointments approved with updated of Bolton & Menk listed as the City Engineer via motion by Byers, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried.
- B. Ordinance 155 Fee Schedule, Bjorklund indicate that upon discussion with Chief Lucht and Maintenance worker Dennis Slama that several of the items pricing needed to be updated to better cover costs. A motion was made by Luedtke, seconded by Byers with all in favor and carried to approve the updated Fee Schedule Ordinance 155. Ordinance will be published in the next edition of the Pine County Courier.
- C. Pine County Historical Society is requesting a donation to cover costs of displaying historical artifacts and storage of documents for governmental agencies. Historically the City of Finlayson has donated \$300. A motion was made by Byers, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried to approve a \$300 donation to the Pine County Historical Society.
- D. Bjorklund shared dates and information related to the upcoming Special Primary and Special Election. Primary will be held January 22, 2019 from 7am to 8pm and the Special Election will be held February 5, 2019 from 7am to 8pm to election a senator for District 11B. If Jason Rarick is elected, that would require an additional election to fill his current seat in the House of Representatives.
- E. 2020 Census is coming fast. Bjorklund and Cowart met with Sarah Priest from the Census Bureau and received information on the jobs available and the steps required

to complete the 2020 census. Information will be posted at City Hall, on the website and sent out in the February water bills.

- F. Bolton & Menk have approached the city to request to be the City Engineer firm. Bjorklund contacted John Mikrot and the City of Askov for information on the firm as they are both currently working with the firm on a water project for Askov. The firm came highly recommended. A motion was made by Luedtke to approve the change in city engineer firms, seconded by Byers with all in favor and carried.

- G. Finlayson Giese Lions – Bev Mensing indicated that she has been receiving complaints that the pull tab machine has not been getting turned on during some shifts by the bartenders. Bjorklund indicated to Mensing that this could have been handled without a council meeting and anything liquor store related should be addressed with Bjorklund first as she is the bar manager as well as the City Administrator. Bjorklund will write a memo to the bartenders to advise that the pull tab machine needs to be on any time the pull tab booth is not open and selling pull tabs. Mensing also wanted clarification on what transpired regarding the complaint received about bingo. Mensing was given a full explanation of the situation.

- H. Finlayson Sportmans' Club – George Slama attended the meeting to inform the council that they will be hosting a fishing contest on 2/16/19 and the bar may be busy afterwards. Additionally, the Sportmans' Club has asked permission to hold their annual trap league gun raffle at the liquor store on 5/11/19 and to ask the bartenders to please have the raffle tickets readily available for bar patrons to purchase. Motion made by Cowart to approved the license for the gun raffle, seconded by Byers with all in favor and carried.

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

Nicole Bjorklund, City Clerk/Administrator