

Finlayson City Council  
Regular Meeting  
May 11, 2020

The regular city council meeting was called to order Monday, May 11, 2020 by Tom Price, Mayor at 6:30 PM.

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

Others present: Wyatt Lucht, Bill Morgan, Barb Morgan, and George Slama and Alanea White via phone.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Hedtke to approve minutes from the March 9, 2020 regular council meeting, March 9, 2020 public hearing and March 16, 2020 emergency meeting, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried.

Additions: G: Community Club 4<sup>th</sup> of July liquor license

Reports:

Fire Department: Chief Wyatt Lucht reported that March and April had a total of 10 medical calls and seven fire calls, for a total of 298 man hours. Burning restrictions are still place. See new business B for additional information for the Fire Dept.

John Mikrot, Water/Sewer Operator: Hydrants were flushed the last week of April/first week of May. As a result of the flushing, there are 4 hydrants that are in need of repair. Mikrot will be working MRWA to get the hydrants fixed this month. Mikrot is getting a quote for the vector truck for the lift station.

Zoning and Planning: See old business B and new business A.

Nicole Bjorklund, City Administrator: Bjorklund gave an overview of the Liquor store financials stating March 2020 had a net loss of approximately \$6,200 fully attributed to the COVID-19 shutdown ordered by Governor Walz on March 17. While April 2020 did manage a \$1,600 net profit which was made possible by reduction in staff and operating hours. Our sales volume was down \$34,000 in March and April 2020 and will continue to be severally impacted for as long as we are required to be shut down. Bjorklund gave her opinion that even when we are able to open, if it requires too many restrictions, our customers and bartenders are going to be stressed and it would cause even more financial and business stress to open right away. The hand pump has been installed at Shafer Park and is going to be test by the MDH this week to determine if the new pump was the fix to our failing water from the pump. Public works have been installing 911 address signs on outlying addresses that did not have numbers. This comes as a request from emergency services and the county and state agencies that respond to addresses where they are difficult to locate without numbers. This project has had an unforeseen cost of nearly \$3000 in all, including ordering the posts, signs, and labor for locating, digging and installing the signs.

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

Old Business:

- A. As previously discussed, DSE is moving their operations to the newly purchased old Knight Tool building and has approached the City to have a lease agreement for the parking lot of the old Muni building for use by the bar patrons. A lease agreement was drawn up by the City attorney and accepted by the council with a motion from Drahosh, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried.
- B. Finlayson Properties has reorganized the boundaries for parcels 380024000 and 380007000, a total of 37 acres. One parcel, which contains the old Knight Tool building, will be 3.47 acres and has been sold to DSE. The other parcel is 34.53 acres and will be a future housing development and is in need of re-zoning as it is currently zoned industrial. Luedtke made a motion to accept and approve the re-zoning of the old Knight Tool land to residential, seconded by Byers with all in favor and carried.

New business:

- A. Northern Contractors has submitted a building permit application for the building of a new home and garage on Pine Lake Road for Brian Cottrell. A motion to approve the application and issue a permit was made by Luedtke, seconded by Byers with all in favor and carried.
- B. An opportunity arose for the Fire Dept to purchase a normally \$30,000 - \$40,000 SCBA filling air compressor for only \$3,500 but they had to reply to the offer before the council meeting. Mayor Price approved the purchase with reserve for it to be addressed at the meeting. A motion was made by Drahosh to approve the purchase, seconded by Hedtke with all in favor and carried. The compressor will be installed later this week.
- C. The next extension for the lease of the Post Office space has been received. With the fact that the Post Office did not seem to follow the original lease agreement payment terms of increases every five years and the fact that they are requesting new flooring and painting as well as a need for a new furnace and taxes for that portion of the property being over \$2000 per year, the council has asked Bjorklund to contact the Post Office agency and ask them to agree to either increased rental fees or that they would be performing and paying for all the updates and maintenance. All maintenance and updates thus far have been done by the City and the requested updates could be well over \$10,000 not included the new furnace. If they do agree to pay and complete all maintenance, the City must approve each update or change prior to it happening. Decision tabled until additional information is available.
- D. Melinda Mattson, the granddaughter of Victor Shafer, namesake of Victor Shafer Park, has contacted the City requesting contribution of time or labor or both for

improvements to the park. The council is requesting more details and a plan before committing to anything. Decision tabled at this time.

- E. In an email from Althoff & Nordquist (current city auditor), The City of Finlayson was notified their licensure was not approved by the appropriate governing body in order to perform audits. Facing a time deadline to find a new auditor, the council reviewed proposals from Eide Bailly and Abdo, Eick and Meyers to the financial audit for YE 2019. A motion was made by Byers to approve Eide Bailly as the new auditor, seconded by Drahosh with all in favor and carried.
- F. Residents have been asking about the City wide garage sales in June. Given the guidance from the Governor due to Covid-19, the City is not going to participate or organize any City wide garage sales this year.
- G. The Finlayson Community Club has submitted a liquor license application for the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration. It is unknown how/if the celebration will take place at this time. A motion was made to approve the application by Drahosh, seconded by Hedtke with all in favor and carried. George Slama and Barb Morgan question why the council doesn't just make a decision now about the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration because other communities are canceling similar events and given information from the Governor the likelihood that events like the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration because other communities are canceling similar events and given information from the Governor the likelihood that events like the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration would be able to happen is slim. Also, Morgan indicated that the council should be looking at the safety and health of the community. A motion was made by Drahosh to cancel the annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration and therefore canceling the liquor license from the Community Club, seconded by Hedtke 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