

Finlayson City Council
Regular Meeting
May 13, 2019

The regular city council meeting was called to order Monday, May 13, 2019 by Ed Cowart, Mayor at 6:30 PM.

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

Others present: Wyatt Lucht, Bill Morgan, Alanea White, and Barb Morgan

Additions or Corrections:

G: Water bill issue

H: City contribution to Community Club 4th of July events

Approval of Minutes:

A motion by Price to approve minutes from April 8, 2019 regular council meeting, seconded by Drahosh with all in favor and carried.

Reports:

Fire Department: Chief Lucht indicated that April had six medical calls, three fire calls, one vehicle accident call and one mutual aid fire call for a total of 89 man hours. Caitlyn Norton has approached the FFR about applying to be on the rescue department. The Methodist Church has donated \$570.46 raised from citizens at a rest stop donation drive. The Methodist Church has requested to use the fire hall for their annual ice cream sale during the 4th of July celebration. A motion was made by Luedtke, seconded by Byers with all in favor (except Drahosh abstained due to affiliation with church board) and carried to allow the fire hall use by the Methodist Church.

John Mikrot, Water/Sewer Operator: Mikrot reported the leak testing company will be coming this week. There is a need for vegetation and fence maintenance around the sewer ponds. There was a sewer pipe back up on the west end of town which needed emergency fixing as it was going into a residents' basement. The fix of the sewer blockage cause the lift station to also have an issue which again had to be immediately fixed. There is a water shutoff valve leak in the sidewalk by the community center. A motion was made to fix the leak by Price, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried.

Zoning and Planning: Luedtke advised the council that he did take a look at the condition of the property just east of town at 2326 State Hwy 18. Bjorklund will send a letter to the property owner advising them to get the property into acceptable condition.

Nicole Bjorklund, City Administrator: Bjorklund gave an overview of the Liquor store financials stating April 2019 had a net income of nearly \$6,000 for the month which is a 10% increase compared to April 2018. The 2018 financial audit went well and a report should be coming soon. Upon review of the financials, the auditor and Bjorklund agreed that the council could approve

additional funds to be transferred to the general fund from the liquor store fund. A motion was made by Price to transfer an additional \$10,000 dollars along with the \$25,000 that was approved last month, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried. We had an inspection at the Liquor store by the MN Dept of Health. There were 3 minor observations made and all have been implemented with minimal or no cost. One of the fans in the cooling units in the beer cave has seized up and needs replacement at an estimated cost of \$750. A motion to approve the repair was made by Drahosh, seconded by Byers with all in favor and carried.

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

Old Business:

- A. Resolution 2019-03 mail balloting: Concerns from a resident related to lack of connection to the community and potential for reduced turn out were addressed. Bjorklund will survey the community to determine their opinion on the potential change. A motion was made to table the resolution by Drahosh, seconded by Price with all the favor and carried.
- B. City Hall sidewalk bid selection: Bjorklund had to call several contractors as the ad placed in the paper did not result in any submitted bids. Two bids were received with a \$10,000 difference. A motion to approve the bid from Dan's Masonry made by Byers, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried.
- C. Liquor store parking lot bid approval: one bid was received from Rocon Paving for \$2000, approved via motion by Drahosh, seconded by Price with all in favor and carried.
- D. Tax incentives for new businesses: Bjorklund discussed with Pine County and other local City Administrators and determined that what the businesses would be looking for would be tax abatement which would require involving the City Attorney and a financial advisor as well as Pine County and would likely be too costly to the City at this time unless the new business would willing to pay for it which would negate the purpose. No further discussion.

New business:

- A. Community Center sidewalk water shut off has been leaking and is in need of repair. A motion to approve the repair was made by Price, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried.
- B. An organization has approached the City asking for permission to hold a "Ragnar Run" rest stop in our parking lots. A motion to allow the use of the parking lots was made by Drahosh, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried.
- C. A building permit was submitted by Northern Contractors for new construction of a home at 6544 School Street. A motion was made by Luedtke to approve the building permit, seconded by Byers with all in favor and carried.

- D. A building permit was submitted by Eric Olsen for a deck at his property 2235 State Hwy 18. A motion was made by Luedtke to approve the building permit, seconded by Drahosh with all in favor and carried.
- E. Finlayson Community Club is requesting a liquor license for the 4th of July for a beer garden. A motion was made by Byers to approve the license, seconded by Drahosh with all in favor and carried.
- F. Finlayson-Giese Lions Club is requesting a liquor license for the 4th of July to sell beer in the Community Center. A motion was made by Drahosh, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried.
- G. During normal billing of water service to residents, it was noted that a specific resident meter was not accurate between the interior meter and exterior meter. Upon further discussion it was determined that we would not be able to know for certain that the difference of over 70,000 gallons was used or if it was a meter malfunction. Therefore, a motion was made by Drahosh to reset the meter and start fresh, seconded by Byers with all in favor and carried.
- H. Mel Hedlund from the Community Club is requesting that the City cover the cost of the dumpster, the satellite toilets and fireworks insurance. A motion was made by Price to approve the costs requested, seconded by Drahosh with all in favor and carried.

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

Nicole Bjorklund, City Clerk/Administrator