

Finlayson City Council  
Regular Meeting  
October 13, 2020

The regular city council meeting was called to order Tuesday, October 13, 2020 by Tom Price, Mayor at 6:30 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Others present: Wyatt Lucht, Bill Morgan, Vickie Oetterer, Bev Mensing, Stacey Fales, Bruce Nelson and Steve Christensen.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Drahosh to approve minutes from the September 14, 2020 regular council meeting, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried.

Complaints/questions: Mayor Price brought up the fact that the new stop sign installed at Otter Trail should be removed as that is a private driveway. Luedtke indicated he had been asked when then cribbage players would be allowed to resume Wednesday night cribbage at the Muni. Bjorklund indicated that since the Lion's were required to have an action plan to resume bingo that the cribbage group would also need to supply one. The main concern being that cribbage cards are handled by everyone playing and the players are moving around from table to table for games. The exchange of cards poses a high level of cross-contamination.

Reports:

Fire Department: Chief Wyatt Lucht reported that September had just a few fire calls that had been canceled in route and a few medical calls. Both tanker and pumper units were certified and have valves repaired.

John Mikrot, Water/Sewer Operator: Mikrot was absent, Bjorklund reported that the lift station part is still not available. Hydrants were completed the first week of October. There is a leak at the water plant, Mikrot is waiting for a plumber to return his call for repair.

Zoning and Planning: See A. in old business.

Nicole Bjorklund, City Administrator: Bjorklund gave an overview of the Liquor store financials stating September 2020 had a net loss of approximately \$12,000 and YTD we are at a net loss of almost \$27,000. September expenses included the incentive checks while the Labor Day weekend was not as profitable as past years due to COVID restrictions at Howie's Mud Bog. The band that was originally scheduled for Oct 30<sup>th</sup> requested an updated. Council agreed with Bjorklund that having a band requires too much restrictions on the guests and is not likely to make enough money to make up for the cost in a time when we are already negative. Due to our seasonal bartender leaving at the end of October, Bruce Nelson has asked the council to consider him as a bartender. Due to bartenders handling the payout of money on winning pull-tab sales from the machine and Bruce being a member of the Lion's that handles the machine and pay

back to the bar, it was seen as too big of a conflict to allow both to occur. Bev and Bruce discussed with the council about having procedures in place and having someone else handle the machine if Bruce is allowed to bartender. Bruce would still be allowed to sell pull-tabs in the booth as that has no connection to the bartenders. Council agrees to allow Bruce to bartend with proper procedures in place. Due to several water/sewer accounts being multiple months past due and the Governor's Peace Time Emergency order not allowing for shut offs, Bjorklund has indicated that letters will be sent to the customers notifying them to set up a payment plan or their past due balances would be certified to their taxes. There is an excess of CARES Act funding that the City does not have qualifying expenses to spend on so Pine County Auditor has suggested to contact the Finlayson Elementary to see they need any funds for the distance learning expenses. Approximately \$6,500 of the funds have been spent. Bjorklund suggests to send the remaining portion of the funds to the Finlayson Elementary and Pine County. Bjorklund is waiting for a response from the school on what they have remaining for expenses that they do not have funds to cover. Motion by Byers to approve sending remaining funds to school and county, seconded by Hedtke with all in favor and carried.

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

#### Old Business:

- A. Steve Christensen is requesting a building permit variance for the shed being built by Brian Beck. Christensen has a fully fenced in back yard and would like to put the shed by the fence and not in the middle of his yard as the zoning ordinance indicates should be done. Motion by Drahosh to approve variance, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried.
- B. The Lion's have presented their plan for restarting bingo at the bar with COVID-19 procedures in place in conjunction with the requirements of the bar. Lion's bingo plan approved for starting of bingo October 20<sup>th</sup> at 6pm weekly by motion from Drahosh, seconded by Hedtke with all in favor and carried.
- C. Finlayson Ag center clean up is in process. Price or Lucht to speak with owners regarding storage/grain bin.

#### New business:

- A. Chief Lucht has asked Bjorklund to update the Fire Dept handbook with updates to the probationary section so that new members are required to stay on the dept for at least one year due to the cost of training. If the new member does not stay on for at least one year, they may be responsible for reimbursing the City the cost of the training and gear. Motion made by Drahosh to approve the handbook changed, seconded by Byers with all in favor and carried.
- B. Due to the election results not being ready until the evening of November 10<sup>th</sup>, a date change has been suggested by Bjorklund for the next City Council meeting in order to incorporate the canvassing board meeting with the regular City Council meeting.

Council members agree to change the date to November 12, 2020 to cover both the regular meeting and the canvassing board meeting.

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

Nicole Bjorklund, City Clerk/Administrator