

Finlayson City Council
Regular Meeting
September 13, 2021

The regular city council meeting was called to order Monday, September 13, 2021 by Tom Price, Mayor at 6:30 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Members present: Jeremy Byers, Nadine Hedtke, Mike Drahosh (via phone) and Joe Luedtke.

Others present: Wyatt Lucht, Russ Lucht, John Mikrot, Barb Morgan, Bill Morgan, Steve Christensen and Vickie Otterer.

Additions: F: spending limit increase

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Hedtke to approve minutes from the August 9, 2021 regular council meeting, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried.

Reports:

Fire Department: Chief Wyatt Lucht reported that August had 15 calls totaling 115 man hours. Seven fire calls, eight rescue calls. The Dept received two radios from the State Patrol for \$400 each, decision had to be made immediately and was based on new units costing \$4922.25 each. The radios received are capable of being dual head for the new pumper with a new head purchase, Price and Lucht to research. One of the fire fighters has a generator they are willing to sell to the dept for \$600 for a portable 2000W unit. The new truck will not be put into service until all parts are received and training is complete.

John Mikrot, Water/Sewer Operator: Mikrot indicated that 1/3 of the town jetting has been started and should be completed in the coming weeks. Roots seem to be more of an issue this year, with the lack of rain they are growing deeper to search for moisture and clogging pipes. There has been an issue with iron levels in the water in the past week. Mikrot will be contacting contractors for assistance with the chemical balancing and equipment adjustments. Hydrant flushing will be done some time in October, Mikrot to advise Bjorklund when so it can go in the water bills.

Zoning and Planning: none.

Nicole Bjorklund, City Administrator: Bjorklund gave an overview of the Liquor store financials stating August 2021 had a net loss of \$17,000 though our YTD profit is at \$12,000. September looks to be a good month with Howie's Mud Bog and St. Urho's.

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

Old business:

- A. Top candidates for the maintenance position after interviews were conducted by Drahosh and Hedtke were Erick Blaisdell and Rodney Chesbrough. Price indicated he would abstain from voting on the candidate selection due to personal conflict. Byers and Luedtke confirm and agree to selection of Erick Blaisdell as new maintenance employee. A motion was made by Luedtke to hire Erick Blaisdell, seconded by Hedtke with Drahosh and Byers in favor and carried. Council agrees the new person will start at \$23/hr without a CDL and \$25 with a CDL. If the City pays for Blaisdell to get the CDL he will be required to stay for 3 years and pay will increase to \$25 at one year but if he leaves before that time he is required to pay the City back all costs. If he pays he will be bumped to \$25/hr upon completion of certification. A motion was made by Byers for pay scale, seconded by Hedtke with all in favor and carried. The Council agrees that Wyatt Lucht as the back-up maintenance should also get a raise as he has a wealth of knowledge and deserves a raise from his current rate of \$15.25/hr to \$25/hr, motioned by Luedtke, seconded by Drahosh with all in favor and carried.
- B. Bjorklund spoke with the attorney and he agreed that we can just board it up or fence it in to make it safe. Once complete, we will assess it to the taxes.

New business:

- A. The budget committee met on Sept 7, 2021 and reviewed and completed the budget for 2022. The budget included no increase to the levy. Resolution 2021-04 was passed by motion from Hedtke, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried.
- B. Mowing of the ponds as required by MPCA received four bids ranging from \$415 to \$3000. Price and Drahosh abstaining from voting due to personal conflict of interest with one of the bidders. A motion was made by Hedtke for Dan Mans Mowing at \$415 per mowing, seconded by Byers with Luedtke in favor and carried.
- C. Finlayson Giese Lion's are requesting agreement to introduce E-Bingo to the Muni. This will require nothing additional of the bartenders or Nicole and will result in an additional 15% in rent revenue. It would be played on the current iPads used for E-Tabs and we would be requesting additional iPads from the supplier. A motion was made by Hedtke, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried.
- D. Dennis and Nancy Liebelt have asked if the city would be interested in plowing the cemetery. All members agree there would be no interest in the City doing the plowing as we have enough to do and we aren't in a position to rent out our services.
- E. Due to Columbus Day falling on our typical meeting day in October we will need to move the meeting date. October 12, 2021 at 6:30 is suggested by Bjorklund. A

motion by Drahosh to accept the meeting date change, seconded by Hedtke with all in favor and carried.

- F. Price is suggesting a spending limit increase for Bjorklund and Lucht as many of the items we have purchase for replacement and repair of equipment are more that the current limit of \$500. Price suggests a standard limit of \$1500 with an emergency limit of \$5000 with the agreement of a council member and the mayor. A motion to accept the spending limit increase made by Byers, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried.

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

Nicole Bjorklund, City Clerk/Administrator