

Finlayson City Council
Regular Meeting
April 12, 2021

The regular city council meeting was called to order Monday, April 12, 2021 by Tom Price, Mayor at 6:30 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Others present: Wyatt Lucht, John Mikrot, Bill Morgan, Ron Redding and Brian Roth.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Hedtke to approve minutes from the March 8, 2021 regular council meeting, seconded by Drahosh with all in favor and carried.

Reports:

Fire Department: Chief Wyatt Lucht reported that March had 10 calls totaling 43 man hours. One fire call was canceled in route and nine medical calls. Chief Lucht notified the council of a renewal of the DNR fire contract which included increased fees for grass fires. A DNR grant for 50/50 for grass firefighting equipment is being applied for in the amount of approximately \$8,000 total. Lucht indicated that the Chiefs Association is applying for a multi-million dollar grant for new communications equipment through FEMA. Methodist church is requesting one bay in the fire hall for use during the 4th of July celebration.

John Mikrot, Water/Sewer Operator: Mikrot indicated that the water Tower is at summer levels and ready for the fire season and that fire hydrants will be flushed this week.

Zoning and Planning: See new business B and C.

Nicole Bjorklund, City Administrator: Bjorklund gave an overview of the Liquor store financials stating March 2021 was a break even month. While we were initially approved for the PPP grant through Northview Bank, further research by the auditor indicated that municipalities do not qualify for any of the grants due to receiving government aid. Schaefer Park hand pump that was replaced last year is once again not passing the MDH annual sampling tests. Bjorklund has been in contact with the hand pump installer and the MDH to determine our path forward. Right now we are shocking the system and retesting a few times to see if that corrects the issue. If it does not, it is likely we will need to either hire someone to find the issue, which could be to drill a new well or seal the well.

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

Old business:

- A. The solenoid in the tractor was replaced by David Johnson. However, this was not a total fix to the problem even though the solenoid was bad. New Holland in Isle will come and pick up the tractor and bring it to their facility for repair, however the wait is about 2 months. This repair including labor and parts plus transportation is going to be a very costly repair but the tractor is not usable in the current state. Tom will contact New Holland to schedule the repair.
- B. Creamery building owners did receive their notice. There has not been any contact from them. The notice indicated that contact must be made with a plan by April 15th. The next step would be to involve the attorney. Motion by Drahosh to have Bjorklund contact the attorney after April 15, 2021 if not contact from owners has been received, seconded by Hedtke with all in favor and carried.

New business:

- A. Eide Bailly presented the annual financial statement audit to the council. There were three findings during the audit, the same finding as there have been at every annual audit due to the size of the organization and lack of ability to segregate duties. The loss of income in most funds in 2020 was directly attributed to COVID. The city may consider a policy for fund balances. Motion made by Drahosh to approve the audit, seconded by Hedtke with all in favor and carried.
- B. Resolution 2021-02 for a conditional use permit heard during a public hearing held prior to council meeting approved by motion from Drahosh, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried.
- C. Finlayson Properties owns the land north of the DSE factory on Broadway Street where there are multiple properties being built. There is currently a duplex unit that was approved and built in 2020. The request is for additional splits to be done to the property for additional housing units. The supplied survey drawing indicated another duplex and two single family units, one of which will be for David and Kim Schaefer. Bill Morgan indicated that the zoning ordinance states a minimum of five acres on a lot in a development. Neither Price nor Bjorklund recall that and need to review. However, the council advised that a variance would be sufficient if the ordinance does not match what is drawn up as divided lots. With the amount of additional homes and tax dollars generated from the land division it would benefit the city as a whole. Motion to approve a variance if the ordinance states different than what is requested made by Drahosh, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried. Bjorklund and Price to review.
- D. Community Club is requesting approval of their liquor license application for the 4th of July celebration. A motion to approve the application given by Luedtke, seconded by Drahosh with all in favor and carried.
- E. Nolan residence on West Street is requesting to have four chickens (no roosters) in a coop (not free range). Due to the fact of feces smell and potential for flying the coop,

- the council has denied the request with motion by Drahosh, seconded by Byers with all in favor and carried. Through this discussion Hedtke indicated that she has seen domestic rabbits in their area that appear to be pets running free, wondering if it is this same property. Bjorklund to discuss with homeowner about rabbits needing to be removed due to being at large and no approval given.
- F. Trent Rabe was sent to look at the culvert on Dixon Line Rd due to beavers clogging it up. He quoted a new additional culvert to help handle the water flow. The culvert and required work would be \$2,680. Motion to approve work by Rabe Excavating from Byers, seconded by Drahosh with all in favor and carried.
 - G. Mayor Price believes we have missed an opportunity during COVID by not having the bar kitchen operating. It was never completed to be used for anything other than pizza and appetizers. Luedtke and Hedtke mention that they thought the reason was because there isn't an external grease port or external exit door. Bjorklund to review guidelines and standards to determine potential path forward. Bjorklund indicates that the double door freezer is again not functioning. Motion from Drahosh to proceed with fixing, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried. Bjorklund asked what to do with the old rapid cook over that will require over \$3000 to fix, council advised to scrap it.
 - H. Finlayson Giese Lion's are requesting approval of their liquor license application for the 4th of July celebration. A motion to approve the application given by Luedtke, seconded by Drahosh with all in favor and carried.
 - I. The Sedillo property located on Hwy 18 between Village Lane and Gilly Rd. is and has been in violation of the blight ordinance. Multiple attempts have previously been made to send letters, all of which have been refused. Mayor Price was able to personally hand deliver a letter to the property owners on April 1, 2021. The letter indicates the property must be cleaned up in the next two months.

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

Nicole Bjorklund, City Clerk/Administrator