

Finlayson City Council
Regular Meeting
April 10th 2023

The regular city council meeting was called to order Monday, April 10th, 2023 by Tom Price, Mayor at 6:30 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Members present: Nadine Hedtke, Russell Lucht, Barb Morgan and Mike Drahosh

Others present: John Mikrot, Wyatt Lucht, Erick Blaisdell, Bill Morgan, Noree Wicklander, Vicki Oetterer, and Jack Scarbrough.

Additions or Corrections: N/A

Compliments and Complaints:

Animal complaint on Sherman Rd. Warning letter and copy of Animal Ordinance to be sent to Property Owner.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by B. Morgan to approve minutes from the March 13th, 2023 regular council meeting, seconded by Hedtke with all in favor and carried.

Reports:

John Mikrot, Water/Sewer Operator:

Hydrant flushing to be done this month. Notice was sent out in water/sewer bills. Inquiring about purchasing at least 1 dehumidifier for now for the water tower. Looking out for the protection of equipment. A motion by Hedtke was made to approve the purchase of 2 dehumidifiers, seconded by Drahosh with a spending limit up to \$7000.

Wyatt Lucht (Fire Chief) Fire Department:

Reporting there were 10 calls this past month; 7 medical, 2 misc. calls and 1 motor vehicle. 65 man hours were put in. SCBA inspection is set for April 11th. While attending the last mutual aid meeting, information was received on a civil rights policy needing to be in place for FEMA grants. The City of Finlayson has an Equal Employment Opportunity Policy in place. Wyatt mentioned he put the Fire Department in for a \$9780 grant through the DNR. This grant is awarded in July if we receive it. Plan in place for burning city brush pile this week while the snow is still on the ground.

Zoning and Planning:

Barb Morgan presented information about RPG land developers. They are sending letters to property owners for buying land with undefined reasons.

Ashley Lucht, City Clerk:

- Bar had a loss this past month of \$8700, partially due to new equipment being installed.
- City Hall received a bid on the old roll top desk of \$50. A motion by Drahosh to approve and seconded by Morgan with all in favor and carried.

Dawn Tasler, Deputy Clerk:

- Still waiting on refund check from Gable for the shipping cost of the new post office sign. Hoping to have new sign hung once the weather is nice enough for Erick to be able to remove the old sign and fill the hole.
- Facility use agreement was drafted for the usage of the front rooms. A motion by Drahosh to approve and seconded by Morgan with all in favor and carried.
- Looked into budget for street repairs. Total of \$40,000 available for the year, some has already been used for snow and ice removal. Will need to look into bids on resealing. Ashley and Dawn to research past advertisements for bids for information and reference.
- Received an invoice from LMC to update our 2019 Edition of MN Basic Code of Ordinance. Would like to purchase the new 2023 Edition and adopt the ordinances for \$400 and also have it hosted on the website for \$200 so it is easily accessible for our residents. A motion was made by Drahosh to approve the purchase and seconded by R. Lucht with all in favor and carried.

Noree Wicklander, Bar Manager:

- Kitchen is all set to go! Just waiting on Food License to be upgraded to a Category 2 instead of 1 to include fresh produce and ingredients.
- Wanting to reevaluate positions as she has received a job offer and will be stepping down from Bar Manager. Having conflicting emotions with co-workers and unable to draw line between friendship and boss. Would like at least 2 of her bartenders to step up. Mentions Hayley Erickson who has been with the Finlayson Muni for 5 years and Bobbi Eaton who has been with the Finlayson Muni for nearly 2 years. Both have shown interest in taking on more responsibility. Noree will continue to be the Bar Manager through the month. Ashley or Dawn to send letter to current employees notifying them of position opening before posting to the public.
- Drahosh questions about drinks taken outside of the bar into the parking lot. Drinks are only allowed on patio, signs to be hung to state “No drinks beyond this point”. Mike also received complaints from residents about the bar not being adequately staffed when entertainment is booked. Lost revenue due to customers walking out unable to be served because 1 bartender was on and couldn’t keep up.
- B. Morgan stated customer tabs and employee discounts shouldn’t be allowed due to the Muni being a public entity and not privately owned; Ashley to check with League of MN Cities on policy.
- Reports of animals being in and at the bar that are not service animals. Noree states the issue was address and will not happen again. Animals are allowed on the patio just not inside the bar unless they are registered service animals.
- New guidelines to be put in place for employees, yearly calendar reviews.
- Erick mentioned he placed “No Parking” signs on the south end of the entrance doors to the bar. Received backlash from local residents about towing vehicles. Stating the city

will pay the tow bill they receive. The City of Finlayson will not pay anyone's tow bill. Signs are in place to allow room for emergency vehicles and other patrons to maneuver through the parking lot. Erick would like to make the North end of the entrance "handicap parking only" and paint lines for the no parking in addition to signs.

Motion made by Drahosh to accept March financials and pay bills, seconded by Hedtke with all in favor and carried.

Old business:

A: Schaefer Water Lines; wanted to make sure previous agreement was still in place for replacing water line at the DSE Factory on Broadway Street. All was approved in June 2022 and plans have not changed.

B: Pine Lake Brush Mowing; Quote came in @ \$150/hour. Estimating 3-4 hours to complete. Motion by Drahosh to accept, seconded by Hedtke with all in favor and carried.

C: In Person Voting; Discussion was brought about it being cost affective to do mail in voting. Mayor Price mentions we had an amazing turnout doing mail in rather than in person. Drahosh notes that our percentage of voters was up between 60-70 percent. Ultimately a vote was made with Drahosh, Hedtke and Lucht all against in person voting.

New business:

A: Community Club; Inquiring about using front room for meetings. Showing some concern for losing the Community Club to the Lions Club, would like to separate the two. On average the Community Club has around 10 people at their meetings with an uptick of residents closer to the 4th of July. Mayor Tom suggests using the Fire Hall because the rooms are not very big and may feel a little tight with too many people. Chief Wyatt Lucht and Captain Russ Lucht both show concern for allowing people to use the hall as a meeting place due to past issues with Bar Employees having access but state they could have someone at the Hall during the meetings to make sure everything is as it should be. Meetings would typically be held the 2nd Monday of the month and adding the 4th Monday when it is closer to the 4th of July. City is willing to help.

B. Crazy Mary's Liquor License Request; At this time the Council is wanting to wait until more information can be provided as to what the café plans to serve and what hours they will serve alcohol. The City of Finlayson does not have a set price on Liquor Licensing, as a result of this; the council can decide on what to price a license at, should they grant a license.

C. Creamery; The creamery on Finland Ave has gone into tax forfeit. A motion was made by Drahosh to proceed with tax forfeiture, seconded by Hedtke with all in favor and carried.

D. Charles Hillock Fence (behind old bar/fire hall); This topic is tabled until we can get more info on costs of fencing. Charles is willing to pay 50% as the fence benefits his property. The fence is currently sunk in and showing damage from snow removal.

E: Water Ordinance Update; Wording to be updated to follow Fee Schedule (Ordinance 155). A motion by Morgan to approve and send off for publishing, seconded by Lucht with all in favor and carried.

A motion was made by Drahosh to adjourn, seconded by Lucht with all in favor and carried.

Ashley Lucht, City Clerk