

Finlayson City Council
Regular Meeting
August 12, 2019

The regular city council meeting was called to order Monday, August 12, 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, John Mikrot, Bill Morgan, Alanea White, Barb Morgan, and Vickie Oetterer.

Additions or Corrections:

D: Bartender wages

E: Resolution 2019-05

Approval of Minutes:

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

Reports:

Fire Department: Chief Lucht indicated that July had five medical calls, two vehicle accident calls and two fire calls for a total of 59 man hours. The grass rig truck had a coil replaced and is back in service.

John Mikrot, Water/Sewer Operator: Mikrot indicated that Maguire Iron came in and did the 5 year interior inspection of the water tower and a report should be coming soon. There were no issues indicated during the inspection. Mikrot did speak with Bolton & Menk to determine where and through which organization there are grants available to relining the sewer system.

Zoning and Planning: Sedillo house is showing signs of progress. They have until August 23, 2019 to be in compliance with blight ordinance.

Nicole Bjorklund, City Administrator: Bjorklund gave an overview of the Liquor store financials stating July 2019 was a break even month due to three payroll periods and the incentive checks. We are in need of a new under counter two-door fridge to replace the current one used for cold liquor and Blood Mary fixings as it is icing up and has already been repaired two months ago and the leak in Freon couldn't be found and isn't keeping a good temperature and both door seals are bad. This is the old cooler that came from the old bar. Motion made by Price to order a new fridge for approximately \$1500, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried.

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

Old Business:

- A. Mail-in ballot results to date are 18 people in favor of mail-in compared to 19 people in favor of in-person ballots. The savings per each election cycle would be over \$600 if we switched to mail-in ballots. Information supplied by the County indicated that we should expect a higher voter count for mail-in versus in-person. A motion was made by Drahosh to change to mail-in ballots for a least one voting cycle to see how it goes, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried.
- B. Creamery owners were mailed a third letter containing pictures of the buildings condition. A phone call was received indicating he will start the clean up process in August. Bjorklund advised him that we will keep an eye on the progress and discuss as needed.
- C. Lift station basket quote was received for \$5420 from Minnesota Pump Works. Costs for the most recent incident which could have mostly been avoided were nearly \$2500. Therefore it would be cost effective to purchase the basket to significantly reduce the need for MN pump works to come out and clean the lift station out. A motion was made by Drahosh to purchase the basket, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried. Mikrot to contact MN pump works to give ok for purchase and Matt's sanitation as a garbage bin is necessary to weekly emptying of the basket by Mikrot.

New business:

- A. Sportsmans Club has submitted a gambling application for the November Gun Raffle. A motion was made by Price to approve the application, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried.
- B. The Finlayson Giese Lions Club has submitted an application for a liquor permit for the CCA Harvest Fest in October. A motion was made by Luedtke to approve the application, seconded by Drahosh with all in favor and carried.
- C. Bjorklund gave background on the water hand pump at Shafer Park and the fact that the most recent testing by the MN Dept of Health failed the water sample with the new pump that was purchased. MDH has indicated that we could modify the pump to make it a closed system but the part they informed us to purchase was incorrect and would not work with our system. MDH stated there is a grant process in Sept that we can apply for to fix the water pump issue. Bjorklund will keep an eye out for the timing of grant application process.
- D. Mayor Cowart indicated that one of bartenders approached him about being offered other bartender positions with higher pay and would like the council to discuss the potential for higher wages in an effort to keep the bartenders that we have as there is a shortage already. There will be a budget committee meeting this month and that can be discussed then and brought to the next meeting. Bjorklund to check with other bars and municipal liquor stores on wages.

E. Mayor Cowart turned in his resignation as Mayor due to moving out of the City limits. Tom Price will be the acting Mayor until the next election in 2020. A motion was made by Drahosh to accept the resignation of Mayor Cowart under Resolution 2019-05, seconded by Byers with all in favor and carried.

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

Nicole Bjorklund, City Clerk/Administrator