

Finlayson City Council
Regular Meeting
December 7, 2020

The regular city council meeting was called to order Monday, December 7, 2020 by Tom Price, Mayor at 6:30 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Others present: Wyatt Lucht, Vickie Oetterer, Mark Guss, Dave Hedtke.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Byers to approve minutes from the November 12, 2020 regular council meeting, seconded by Drahosh with all in favor and carried.

Complaints/questions: Wyatt Lucht indicated that he has received some complaints about how the city is plowing. Additionally, Mark Guss and Dave Hedtke were present to add to the complaint information. Both parties indicated that the plowing is not being done well enough nor fast enough for residents to get out and keep their driveways open. Council agrees by motion from Drahosh to keep the plowing as is and at the discretion of the plow operator(s), seconded by Byers with all in favor and carried.

Additions: E: LMC waiver form
F: Eide Bailly annual agreement

Reports:

Fire Department: Chief Wyatt Lucht reported that November had two fire calls and seven medical calls totaling 96 man hours. There has been a total of 118 total calls year to date. One fire remains under investigation.

John Mikrot, Water/Sewer Operator: Bjorklund reported for Mikrot that the pump for the lift station has been received and is awaiting installation.

Zoning and Planning: See new business A and E.

Nicole Bjorklund, City Administrator: Bjorklund gave an overview of the Liquor store financials stating November 2020 had a net loss of approximately \$1,000 and YTD we are at a net loss of \$31,000. The food loss from the broken freezer was reimbursed by insurance. Phase Recycling will be done servicing the recycling sheds at the end of the year and a company from Cloquet will be taking over the recycling program. There has been interest expressed from a couple fire fighters to get ID badges. Bjorklund asked Chief Lucht to check into it so she doesn't have to keep issuing letters when the firefighters need proof of service on the department.

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

Old Business:

- A. Bjorklund discussed With MNDOT the potential to move the sign located at the corner of 18 and School St. that is causing concern/confusion at Town & Country Insurance with people stopping there asking where the Muni is located. MNDOT indicated that no new or additional signs may be located along the right of way on Hwy 18 for the Muni. Possible in the future to update the current sign with a bigger, more obvious arrow and "1 Block".
- B. Pine Lake Township is requesting to be paid for \$4,275 for the plowing and grading down between July 2018 and Nov 2020. Being as there was no invoices issued originally and no documentation to back up the amount requested, the council is asking for documentation. Bjorklund has been requested to contact Finlayson Township to get a quote for plowing and grading as the quote provided from Pine Lake Towhship is \$150 for grading and \$85 for plowing.

New business:

- A. Resolution 2020-08 for final tax levy for 2021 approved by motion from Byers, seconded by Drahosh with all in favor and carried.
- B. Bjorklund calculated the typical raises for employees for 2021, however due to the extreme loss in revenue this year the council has denied any raises for 2021 confirmed by motion from Drahosh, seconded by Hedtke with all in favor and carried.
- C. Due to the freezer issue at the Muni, Bjorklund reached out to Town & Country Insurance for information on equipment breakdown insurance. Information provided indicated a cost of \$1,200 per year to cover the City equipment including, but not limited to, freezers, refrigerators, fire dept air filling equipment, water system equipment, etc. Coverage approval by motion from Hedtke, seconded by Drahosh with all in favor and carried.
- D. Byers brought to attention the fact that MacArthur Street and Hwy 18 intersection does not have a street light and is difficult to see where to turn when dark and when covered by snow. A motion to approve the installation of a street light by ECE for \$510 was approved by motion from Drahosh, seconded by Hedtke with Byers abstaining, carried.
- E. Approval given of not waiving the standard liability limits by motion from Hedtke, seconded by Drahosh with all in favor and carried.
- F. Eide Bailly Annual agreement for completing the financial audit approval given by motion from Byers, seconded by Drahosh with all in favor and carried.

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

Nicole Bjorklund, City Clerk/Administrator