

Finlayson City Council
Regular Meeting
December 13, 2021

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

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

Others present: Wyatt Lucht, John Mikrot, Erick Blaisdell, Bill Morgan and Vickie Oetterer.

Approval of Minutes:

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

Reports:

Fire Department: Chief Wyatt Lucht reported that since the last meeting we had 5 rescue calls, 3 vehicle accidents and 1 fire call totaling 67 man hours. A donation of \$4,200 was received in from ECE. Installation of the tile for the fire hall bathroom will be quoted by Troy Nelson and Ross Degerstrom. The township fire contract meeting will be held January 13, 2022 at the fire hall. The radios received from the PCSO are not properly programmed and need to be sent out for programming so they work correctly.

John Mikrot, Water/Sewer Operator: Mikrot provided numbers for the past year of quantity of gallons of water pumped for usage versus waste water pumped to the treatment ponds. There is a clear issue with the amount of wastewater exceeding sometimes more than double the amount of water pumped. The numbers did not include what is pumped for Banning Sewer District. One resident has a meter that is not properly functioning and was originally plumbed as a commercial line and meter. This needs to be fixed as it is not reading properly. Bjorklund to contact a plumber to have issue corrected.

Zoning and Planning: none.

Nicole Bjorklund, City Administrator: Bjorklund gave an overview of the Liquor store financials stating November 2021 had a net loss of \$4,000 with our YTD profit at \$53,000. We will likely achieve \$900,000 in sales for 2021 for the Muni.

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

Old business:

- A. Sedillo property original owner, Dan Becker, has made contact with the City and has indicated he is in contact with his attorney to determine what his legal rights are as it

is still under contract for deed even though the contract hasn't been paid in over a year. Renters and contract for deed owners, Sedillo's, are not doing anything with the property. Sedillo's have moved to Texas.

- B. The Creamery is still in need of boarding up as the supply of plywood was low in the area and cost too high at the time. Luedtke, working at Lamperts, will check on cost of current stock of plywood or alternatives.

New business:

- A. Resolution 2021-06 is to finalize the 2022 tax levy at \$111,244. A motion was made by Drahosh to approve the resolution, seconded by Hedtke with all in favor and carried.
- B. LMC liability limit waiver form to be signed to indicate the city will not waive the statutory limits. A motion was made by Luedtke to not waive the limits, seconded by Hedtke with all in favor and carried.
- C. Annual wage increase suggested between 3-5%, no wage increase was given for 2021 due to COVID. Motion by Drahosh for 5% wage increase for employees hired prior to July 1, 2021, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried.
- D. Bjorklund is requesting a lead bartender due to increase in business and work load. The lead bartender will do the majority of the inventory ordering, scheduling, and training. Two employees notified Bjorklund of interest in position, Bobbi Eaton and Lenora (Noree) Wicklander. Motion by Drahosh for Lenora Wicklander to be appointed as the lead bartender at \$13/hr effective January 1, 2022, seconded by Hedtke with all in favor and carried.
- E. It was been 3 years since the water/sewer rates for Residential usage has been reviewed. The State of MN requires that be reviewed and adjusted based on financial standings of the Water and Sewer accounts. At this time Bjorklund is suggesting to raise the usage rates from 0.005 to 0.0055. This will be become effective with the next billing cycle. Motion to accept increase by Drahosh, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried.
- F. Mayor Price talked to Nick Mayer (possibility for cooking) about the kitchen equipment, suggested to get it from Superior Products. However, it was also discovered that we need to have the sprinkler system in the kitchen switched to a dry chemical system due to the grease. Bjorklund to check on getting a quote to see if that is even feasible or financially advantageous.

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

Nicole Bjorklund, City Clerk/Administrator