

Finlayson City Council
Regular Meeting
February 13th 2023

The regular city council meeting was called to order Monday, February 13, 2023 by Tom Price, Mayor at 6:30 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Others present: John Mikrot, Wyatt Lucht, Erick Blaisdell, Bill Morgan, Noree Wicklander, Vicki Oetterer, Don Roepke, John Linden, Sandra Schoenrock, Steven Hanna, and Paul Peterson

Addition or Corrections: Remove section E: Truth in Taxation and section F: Closed Meeting

Compliments and Complaints: Council Member Drahosh mentioned fire hydrants are being blocked, snowmobiles are using the sidewalks, vehicles parking on wrong side of streets, and a lack of respect to city employees.

Mayor Price noted that when City Clerk and/or Deputy Clerk are being hollered at the party is to be asked to leave. If they choose to not leave Pine County will be contacted.

Pine County can only enforce a snowmobile ordinance if the city has one in place. Clerks are to come up with an ordinance. Snowmobiles have been causing damage to sidewalks which gets assessed to the homeowner's taxes when reparation occurs. Snow fence is to be put in place every fall over the geo thermal to avoid snowmobiles driving on it. Clerks to order "no parking" signs. Suggested to paint curbs to mark fire hydrants.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Drahosh to approve minutes from the January 9th, 2023 regular council meeting, seconded by Hedtke with all in favor and carried.

Reports:

Fire Department: Lucht reported there were 8 medical calls for the month of January totaling 39 man hours. Linden brought forward a quote for \$7360 on 8 new 4500lb/45min SCBA tanks. The department had received donations towards new SCBA tanks and would like to utilize those funds. Morgan motions to approve purchase of new tanks, Hedtke 2nds the motion. Price, Lucht and Drahosh abstained from voting due to conflict of interest. Chief Lucht stated the office computer in the fire hall is on its last leg, would like to purchase a new one. Clerks to get pricing on laptop or desktop, department would like a desktop with either a larger monitor or dual monitor. Grass Rig is in need of a new tank; Chief Lucht contacted Norwesko on purchasing. Department would like to see fire rates and what we charge for on city website, also to include, if any equipment is called in for demo that the homeowner/occupant is to be billed in addition to the fire call. Any contractor requested for demo must have a \$1,000,000 insurance bond.

John Mikrot, Water/Sewer Operator: Mikrot brought in a quote for new dehumidifiers coming in around \$3700 each for just the unit. Price suggests getting a large barn style fan for the summer and seeing how that handles the humidity. Price would like to table the dehumidifiers for

now. The media in the water tower needs to be changed also. John will try cleaning it before changing as we do not use as much water as bigger cities that the media is designed for.

Zoning and Planning: Morgan inquired about starting this committee back up. We would need about 5 people to get it going. Clerks to run ad in paper seeking interest and reach out to surrounding cities on how they conduct their committee.

Ashley Lucht, City Clerk: Lucht gave an overview of the liquor store financials stating January 2023 had a net income of near \$12,000.00. Ashley was approached by Northview Bank wondering about who would be responsible for putting in an ADA approach at the front of their building, county or city; Lucht to contact county to determine responsibility. Meter Technologies reached out about updating our meter system. Lucht and Blaisdell received information and quotes from Lee Martin. Tabled for another time.

Noree Wicklander, Bar Manager: New equipment has been received, just waiting on electrician before we can advertise and start using. Wicklander would like to add changing tables into the bathrooms for when we open the kitchen more to be more family friendly; Wicklander to research.

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

Old business:

- A. Cell Phone reimbursement – Flat rate up to \$50. No bill be required going forward. Employee is required to carry service.
- B. Bar Equipment – Electrical Quote – Quote was received from Veteran Electric to add a new panel and ansul system in for the new griddle and fryers. Council chooses to table and have clerk reach out to other electricians for reevaluation of current panel.

New business:

- A. Paul Peterson starts with saying they are and have been very satisfied with Finlayson Fire/Rescue. They would like the department to look into other factors with the Fire Contracts. In 2019 they had a price of \$14,940, 2021 was \$21,108 and this year jumping to \$30,243. Currently rates are determined by the net tax capacity of the township and percentage Finlayson Fire covers. Don Roepke presented a calculation from MNFD Association factoring in the number of calls over the past 3 years and residents. Chief Lucht provided the township with the number of calls for previous years. Township mentions that taking tax amounts for formula is like only look at the lake properties. Price mentions we have to charge everyone the same percentage and the new truck purchase in 2021 affected the rates. Council Lucht & Drahosh and Chief Lucht mention it does not as a truck does not affect a township taxes. Chief Lucht questions how to make it more equitable – fire vs medical. Paul Peterson and Vicki Oetterer both asked about if the department can charge for medical runs since they have more medical than fire. Discussed about charging insurance companies. Peterson would like to have added into contracts that after 5 years any unpaid bills will not be sent to the township and would like a copy of invoice when it is sent to

- billed party. Peterson would like the council to discuss and see if there is anything that can be changed before their next township meeting in March.
- B. Resolution 2023-02 Annual Appointments – Drahosh motions to approve, Hedtke 2nd. All in favor.
 - C. Lucht and Tasler requesting to move \$35,000 from liquor store fund to the general fund. Motion by Hedtke to approve, Morgan 2nds the motion.
 - D. Admin requesting 2nd computer. Quote was given by Cybert PC for \$869. Adding additional desktop would give clerks the ability to work in same programs without swapping places. Also wanting to put the old roll top desk up for bids – whomever gets it would need to transport it on their own. Drahosh motion to approve, Hedtke 2nd.
 - F. Eide Bailly requesting approval for Post Office lease to be looked into for audit purposes. Motion by Hedtke, 2nd by Lucht.
 - G. Pine Lake Township stopped in offering to mow some overgrown brush on Front Street this spring. Lucht to contact township for a written quote. Would also like to have MacArthur done, W. Lucht states he almost hit some with the plow truck. Price asked to get a list of addresses together of who needs trees removed. Tasler mentioned Askov had a newer ordinance on tree limb and debris removal, would like to look into having a similar ordinance.

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

Ashley Lucht, City Clerk