

Finlayson City Council - Regular Meeting  
Finlayson City Hall  
January 8, 2024 @ 6:30 pm

The regular city council meeting was called to order Monday, January 8, 2024 by Dave Auchter, Mayor at 6:30 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Council Members present:** Joe Okun, Barb Morgan, Kim Schaefer

**Council Members absent:** Russell Lucht

**Others present:** John Mikrot, Wyatt Lucht, Randy Millner, Vickie Oetterer, Hayley Erickson, Bobbi Eaton, Jeffrey Flaws, Tom Price, Dan Will

**Additions or Corrections:** Auchter added New Business G Committees and Projects.

**Compliments and Complaints:**

Vickie Oetterer expressed concern for lack of communication outside of city water/sewer residents. No action taken but advised will send correspondence out to everyone.

Vickie also mentioned we should look into the Community Club leasing the Depot from us with them paying insurance. No action taken.

Auchter wants a clear and defined plowing policy posted for residents. W. Lucht mentioned plowing streets is dependent on amount and when the county comes through. Sidewalks are dependent on amount of snow and day of week. No action taken but advised a policy will be written and posted.

**Public Comments:** none

**Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Okun to approve minutes from the December 11th, 2023 regular council meeting, seconded by Schaefer with all in favor and carried.

**Reports:**

**John Mikrot, Water/Sewer Operator:** Chlorine tank has been installed. Media sample has been taken and sent for testing; pending results. MN Pump gave us a quote for a new pump \$17000.00 for pump and installation. John will test amperage and report back. Air compressor is wearing approximate cost to fix is \$1000.00. No action taken will revisit next council meeting to decide on next steps.

**Randy Millner, Public Works:** No current issues.

**Bobbi Eaton/Hayley Erickson, Lead Bartenders:** Eaton gave an overview of the Liquor store financials stating December 2023 had a net profit of \$9651.00 with our YTD profit at approximately \$37,000. Prices increased at the liquor store on Jan 1<sup>st</sup> to reflect cost increases and prices have not been raised in quite some time. Eaton presented ordering the pizza freezer and the deli counter approximate cost of \$2800. Morgan motioned to approve the \$2800. Okun second all in favor. Inventory audit went well on New Years Day. Eaton proposed bringing back a St. Urho's celebration. No action but there were no objections. Eaton also said she is stepping back for month of February due to personal reasons. Will continue her office duties but not behind the bar or in the kitchen.

**Shelly Goodman, City Clerk:**

Distributed rough draft new employee handbook and performance review process. Requested council look over it and come back with additions and/or corrections so a vote on adopting it can get on the agenda. Brought up MCFOA Clerk training in March. No action taken on the issue. Mayor and Council in person training is costly and with three people interim suggested now is not the best time. Auchter proposed online training at a much lower cost. Morgan and Auchter would like to be registered for online courses. Advised Bolton & Menk will charge the city to come to a council meeting to help come up with a plan for upcoming projects. Bollig has stated they will come to a council meeting no charge to give a presentation.

**Dawn Tasler, Deputy Clerk:** Tasler informed the council of the new CBD tax in effect as of 1/1/24. The liquor store is selling THC infused beverages and CBD gummies. The State of MN has imposed an additional 10% tax on those products, for a total of 17.375%. Tasler also indicated when adding the categories to the QuickBooks report she noticed a discrepancy of other categories not included on the profit/loss report. Tasler to review and correct for future reports.

**Wyatt Lucht (Fire Chief) Fire Department:**

Reporting there were 7 calls this past month; 4 medicals, 2 fire and one motor vehicle accident. December had 112 resource hours. Total calls for 2023 were 113.

**Zoning and Planning:** No committee formed but Auchter requested ordinances get reviewed. Also proposed sharing a Zoning Official with Sandstone. Auchter and Goodman meeting with a potential candidate.

**Old business:**

**A: Transfer of funds from liquor to general;** Okun motion to approve transfer of \$30,000.00 for the year 2023 from liquor fund to general fund. Morgan second with all in favor.

**B: Oberloh & Oberloh;** Audit is set for field work to start late March. No action needed.

**New business:**

**A: Resolution 2024-01;** A motion was made by Morgan to keep appointments the same for 2024 with the exception of engineers City is exploring other firms. Okun second with all in favor.

**B: Resolution 2024-02 Fire Dept Donation;** A motion was made by Schaefer to accept \$500.00 donation to Fire Department from United Methodist Church, Okun second all in favor.

**C: 2023 Public Safety Aid;** One time aid of \$13,216.00. Council will come up with ideas for next meeting how they would like to spend. No action taken.

**D: Crazy Mary's beer/wine license;** With information on hand council is not opposed but would like more information and specific plans to be brought forth. No action taken.

**E: Furnace quote and water tower pump quote;** Furnace quote in at approximately \$19,000.00. No action taken will do more research. Pump quote see Mikrot report above.

**F: Zoning Official;** See Planning and Zoning report above.

**G: Committees and Projects;** Auchter proposed new committees to work on projects. No action taken.

A motion was made by Morgan to adjourn at 8:08 pm, second by Okun with all in favor and carried.

Shelly Goodman, City Clerk