

Finlayson City Council
Regular Meeting
January 9, 2023

The regular city council meeting was called to order Monday, January 9, 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, and Noree Wicklander.

Addition: D. Eide Bailly audit
 E. Bar parking lot
 F. D&E – furnace at water tower
 G. Holiday pay corrections

New members to the city council, Barb Morgan and Russell Lucht, were sworn in. Oaths were read aloud together and they were welcomed and congratulated by the rest of the council. Morgan inquired of potential upcoming trainings to serve as a refresher. Mayor Price stated the new clerks have the opportunity to attend training in May and it is important that they know each other's job duties. Training for council members is available also, but not mandatory. Dates are unknown; however, the League of Minnesota Cities is a good resource to contact. Morgan also questioned the hours of City Hall to which Price answered the hours are remaining the same. Morgan also indicated she previously held the clerk position and offered assistance to Ashley and Dawn.

Compliments and Complaints: Mayor Price complimented city employees Blaisdell and Lucht on their hard work and dedication to all the snow removal they completed in December and throughout the winter storm.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Hedtke to approve minutes from the December 12, 2022 regular council meeting, seconded by Drahosh with all in favor and carried.

Reports:

Fire Department: Chief Wyatt Lucht welcomed the two new city council members and reported that December had 15 total calls, thirteen medical calls and two fire calls for 99 man hours. There were two donations made to the fire department since the last meeting. Shawnda Jibben donated \$100.00 and Floyd & Mary Hellman donated \$500.00. Drahosh will be providing "Thank You" cards for the meaningful donations. Amanda Dronen is to be added to Rescue and is interested in volunteering for the Fire as well. She has completed the necessary training with her current position. A recall has been issued on the new fire truck due to a loosening steering nut. Chief Lucht inspected and confirmed there is no concern at this time; however, reparation of it needs to be certified. Certification would cause the fire truck to be out of service. The nearest repair shop is approximately one hour away. Certification needs to be completed within 1 year.

Chief Wyatt has had correspondence with the state Fire Marshall regarding SOP/SOG operating procedures and concluded they should follow the Lakewood Township guideline for reference. While meeting with other fire department officers, it was found the City of Finlayson is twenty years behind assessing charges for rescue calls. Discussion was made of charging individuals for rescue calls. 110 rescue calls were made in 2022, many of them from the same person. Assessing a charge might prevent callers from non-emergency situations. In some instances, insurance companies or Medicare cover the cost of rescue calls. The city could offer the option to waive a fee, offer payment plans, or extend the amount of time to satisfy payment. The city is to reach out to other local cities and towns for recommendations of their rescue charges, if applicable. At the upcoming fire contracts meeting, Chief Lucht will seek advice from others about collecting on rescue invoices and common methods used.

John Mikrot, Water/Sewer Operator: Mikrot stated although it's been above freezing temperatures, he's been battling with the furnaces at the water tower over the past few weeks. A service call was made to D&E Heating and Air Conditioning. It was determined that both hanging heaters were beyond reparation and would need to be replaced. A quote was provided of \$12,950.00. Due to the critical importance of maintaining the equipment at the water tower, Mayor Price approved this expense. There is a possibility insurance would cover a portion of the cost. John Mikrot communicated that late last summer or fall the dehumidifiers at the water tower were down. They are commercial size dehumidifiers and at least 20 years old and an estimated cost would be \$4,000.00-\$5,000.00 each. Fire Chief Lucht indicated he purchased one for the fire hall for about \$400.00 and it has been running for the past year and a half. Mikrot also expressed his concern to replace the media and filter at the water tower or to clean the media at minimum. Mikrot to give the new clerks a tour of the water tower when time allows.

Zoning and Planning: N/A

Dawn Tasler, Deputy Clerk: Tasler gave an overview of the liquor store financials stating December 2022 had a net income of near \$13,150.00 with YTD profit just shy of \$106,000.00. Noree Wicklander, Bar Manager, provided affordable prices and quotes for griddle tops and deep fryers to be added to the bar's equipment. The manufacturer offers a 1 year warranty and are NSF (National Sanitation Foundation) certified. Additional kitchen duty would be the responsibility of the bartenders. A kitchen shift would be added to the bartender's schedule. The wage for cooks is to be determined. To add the new kitchen equipment, the bar needs to be updated with appropriate wattage/voltage. It is possible to swap out the current outlets to conform to what is required. Morgan motioned to purchase one 30" griddle top and one two-basket deep fryer, Hedtke seconded, with all in favor. Wicklander is also to update the food license to include raw meat and fresh produce as well as contact Brother's Fire regarding dimensions of the new equipment being purchased and updating the sprinklers. Wicklander questioned the budget for the bar entertainment to which Mayor Price replied as long as it doesn't occur too often, it is generating good revenue, and to use best judgment. Wicklander suggested city employees to receive a discount on food and Mayor Price agreed. A 50% meal discount will be given to city employees during their shift. Wicklander updated the council on cleaners for the bar, indicating she received three applications thus far. Wicklander questioned how to handle issues with disruptive bar patrons. Mayor Price suggested bringing it to the council or city hall, otherwise direct the patron to leave. If deemed necessary, prohibit the customer from entering the bar for a

certain amount of time. Drahosh motioned to approved December 2022 financials, Hedtke seconded with all in favor.

Old business:

A. Tasler gave an update on the Post Office sign. Of the two choices given, the sign for \$1,970.32 was thought to be the most efficient. Drahosh motioned, Hedtke seconded, with all in favor and motion carried.

New business:

A. The bank resolution was revised to add Ashley Lucht as new City Clerk and Mike Drahosh as Deputy Mayor. Past council member, Byers, has been removed. Morgan motioned for the revision, seconded by Hedtke, with all in favor and motioned carried.

A. Assessment agreement was already completed for the county and sent to the City to serve as a reminder.

B. Resolutions 2022-18 and 2023-01 for donations for the Fire Department were accepted. A donation from Shawnda Jibben in the amount of \$100.00 and a donation from Floyd & Mary Hellman in the amount of \$500.00 were motioned by Hedtke and seconded by Morgan, with all in favor and carried.

C. Eide Bailly will continue to conduct the city's audit beginning Monday the following week. Drahosh motioned to allow Eide Bailly to begin audit and was seconded by Lucht, with all in favor and carried.

D. The bar parking lot agreement with Craig Skaff was discussed. The City will continue to hold liability insurance and maintain the parking lot. Drahosh motioned to approve the agreement and Hedtke seconded, with all in favor and carried.

E. In reference to the aforementioned furnace issue at the water tower, Drahosh motioned to have the heaters replaced and approved the proposal provided by D&E Heating and Air Conditioning with Hedtke seconding.

F. Holiday pay corrections were made. City Hall cannot be open on a federal holiday or observed federal holiday. City Clerk Lucht and maintenance personnel Blaisdell to receive said holidays as paid for amount of regular hours worked. Drahosh motioned and Morgan seconded to adjust holiday pay.

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

Dawn Tasler, Deputy Clerk