

Finlayson City Council  
Regular Meeting  
July 10<sup>th</sup> 2023

The regular city council meeting was called to order Monday, July 10, 2023 by Tom Price, Mayor at 6:30 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**Council Members absent:** none

**Others present:** Erick Blaisdell, Wyatt Lucht, John Mikrot, George Slama, Don Roepke.

**Additions:**

Old Business: F: Hillock Fence

New Business: F: Resolution 2023-04

G: Aquarius Quote for City Hall furnace blower

Planning/Zoning: Building Permit Richard Palmer

**Corrections:** none

**Compliments and Complaints:**

Question regarding the status of the Sherman Road animal complaints - All animals have been removed. Complaint regarding water/sewer cost from a local business owner. Residents have come in asking about discounts on their water/sewer invoices for watering lawns/trees. Council will need to discuss discount. Erick brought up the issue of garbage pick up after city wide events. After the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration while picking up the trash bins, multiple vendors had left grease containers for the city to dispose of. They had also dumped grease in the garbage bins which spilled out of the bins. Clerk to send letter to Lions Club and Community Club regarding garbage disposal for future events.

**Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Drahosh to approve minutes from the June 12th, 2023 regular council meeting, seconded by Hedtke with all in favor and carried.

**Reports:**

***John Mikrot, Water/Sewer Operator:***

Bi-annual well inspection and hydrant repair are both coming up within the next month or 2. Chlorine levels were dropped in the hope that residents would have less of the chlorine smell in the water. Dropping the level may also reduce the darker color in water some residents are experiencing.

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

9 calls total, 3 fire and 6 rescue. 47-man hours. Pancake breakfast had a great turnout! 326 people in total and a profit of around \$1500.

***Zoning and Planning:*** A building permit was submitted and approved for Richard Palmer on Sherman Rd.

***Ashley Lucht, City Clerk:***

New website is up and running.

Regarding DSE water line repair, last month council had approved just replacing gravel and not repaving what was taken out. Ashley was to reach out to Rabe about concrete for sidewalk. He does not do concrete work and council will need to send out bids if the repair is needed when the time comes.

***Dawn Tasler, Deputy Clerk:***

Tasler reports the liquor store net income dropped to (\$6600), this is likely due to the ordering of beer and liquor at the end of June as orders would come in after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July if we had waited. The floors at the bar are also in need of being waxed. Blaisdell to call around and find a business to rent a machine from.

Contract has been started with Pine County to enforce our city ordinances when we have done all we can with no end result.

MPCA permit came back incomplete. Tasler asked Water/Sewer Operator John Mikrot for assistance, minimal help was received. MPCA suggested Tasler contact Bolten & Menk for help. Gravel roads are done and came in at a final cost of \$18,924.45.

Ordinance 155 has been updated and published to include new fire rates.

Special Fire Council- When asking LMC and other cities about this they simply stated it cannot be done. Mayor Price states it isn't an issue anymore because he is no longer on the Finlayson Fire and Rescue so he should be able to have more say on fire items. We now currently have 2 council members on the department and one that it could be a conflict of interest due to relations with the department assistant chief.

***Hayley Erickson, Lead Bartender:***

Hayley brings up bartenders being able to clock in at the cook wage while we wait for a cook to be hired.

There will be a bike run coming through the end of July, bartenders were asked about providing beer buckets out on the patio to keep bikers from drinking heavily when they stop. Tasler has a call in with Town and Country but they need more information, Hayley or Bobbi to call with more information.

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

**Old business:**

**A: National Night Out;** A spending limit needs to be set. Erick has already set up to rent a bounce house from Tim Davis'. Barb questions if in previous years what the limit was like to be able to budget and set a new limit. Budget to include food, beverages, prizes, etc; Sportsmen's club will be making some prize donations, will have more info later on as they have an upcoming meeting. After some discussion a limit of \$750 was motioned by Drahosh and seconded by Morgan.

**B: Bonuses and Incentives;** ~~Currently we are obligated to pay bonuses out this year. Moving forward any bonus will be purely performance based. Will be discussed more at a budget meeting. Admin, Maintenance and Bar Leads will be reviewed by the council and bartenders will be reviewed by the Bar Leads or Manager. A motion was made by Drahosch to accept bonuses this year seconded by Hedtke.~~

**ADDENDUM:** While generating bonus/incentive checks, it was disclosed to the Deputy Clerk that employee bonuses are not an allowable use of public funds unless they are tied to a performance incentive pay program. There are certain criteria to follow for awarding bonuses. Any compensation must be tied to job performance.

**C: Fire Contracts;** Tasler put together spreadsheets and example formulas to follow. A figure was presented for budgeting purposes for Wagner Township to help them budget for the rise in cost. With the new numbers from Aitkin County, Wagner Township would still see an increase for the coming year of roughly \$1844 for a total of \$32,088. Motion by Drahosch to give figure for budgeting purposes, seconded by Hedtke.

**D: Bar Cook;** *See Hayley's report*

**E: Depo:** Depo ownership was confirmed by Pine County. City of Finlayson is in full possession of ownership. Clerks to let Pine County Historical Society and Community Club know that we own the structure. Any current plans or bids to restore must be halted until parties have communicated with the Finlayson City Council and gained approval to restore structure. Clerk to look into added insurance back to the building.

**F: Hillock Fence:** A quote from Deutschlander Fencing came in at \$13486. Previously the council had agreed to pay 50% of the fence replacement as the fence has been damaged by maintenance pushing snow into it in the winter months and it also help keep bar patrons out of the resident's yard. Drahosch makes a motion to stand behind the city paying 50% of the fence, seconded by Hedtke with the stipulation that the city is not responsible for the fence after installation. All in favor and carried.

#### **New business:**

**A: 2024 Budget & Budget Committee;** Tasler is requesting assistance with the budget and looking for a committee to be put together. Morgan and Drahosch both volunteer. Tasler to set up meeting time.

**B: Clerk Hiring;** With Ashley resigning and her last day being July 13<sup>th</sup>, an ad was placed in the local paper for a replacement. Advertisement was also shared on the city website and Facebook page. Applications have started rolling in. Ashley has mentioned she will still provide help to Dawn if she needs it.

**C: Speed Radar Signs;** Hedtke had asked who the city would contact about getting speed radar signs on each end of town to try and slow passing traffic down. Lucht reached out to MNDot regarding signs and possible permits needed to place them on the state right away. The City would be in full responsibility of the signs including, maintenance and installation. At this time the council decided to pass on the subject.

**D: Sportsmen's Club Gambling License;** Sportsman's Club will be holding their annual Gun Raffle on Saturday November 18<sup>th</sup>. George Slama was present and asked if this year it could be possible to not have another event on that day in the muni. Council agreed it would be too packed and over our capacity limit. It was found that we already have a band booked for that day. Bar leads to reach out to band on rescheduling.

**F: Resolution 2023-04;** A donation from the Finlayson Community Club of \$300 for National Night. Motion by Morgan to accept donation, seconded by Drahosh with all in favor and carried.  
**G: Aquarius;** We had our summer check up on the furnaces in both the city hall and post office. The blower motor in the city hall is beginning to go out. A quote of \$1223.15 was given to replace. The furnace in the post office is on its last leg. When brought up to the council they stated this work was already scheduled to be done last fall. Lucht to research what happened and when quote was accepted. Council would also like to get a quote on replacing the city hall furnace rather than just the blower motor.

**H: Closed Meeting held after regular meeting**

A motion was made by Price to adjourn to go into the closed meeting, seconded by Drahosh with all in favor and carried.

Ashley Lucht  
City Clerk