

Finlayson City Council
Regular Meeting
July 12, 2021

The regular city council meeting was called to order Monday, July 12, 2021 by Tom Price, Mayor at 6:30 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Others present: Wyatt Lucht, Russ Lucht, Barb Morgan, Bill Morgan, Vickie Oetterer, John Mikrot, Ethan Bjorklund, and John Linden.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes for June were not available at the time of the meeting due to other issues taking priority. Approval will be made in the August meeting.

Reports:

Fire Department: Chief Wyatt Lucht reported that June had 12 calls totaling 62 man hours. Two fire calls, one mutual aid call, and nine medical calls. The pumper we are purchasing will be delivered sometime in August. Financial information in old business A. Mayor Price recommended Ethan Bjorklund for admittance to the Fire and Rescue dept. Bjorklund was on the department previously and has fire and rescue experience. Chief Lucht agrees with Bjorklund being on the department and offers another individual to be admitted, George Wallace. Price indicates that there is no maximum number of volunteers allowed on the department contrary to prior beliefs. A motion was made by Drahosh to approve Bjorklund and Wallace to department, seconded by Hedtke with all in favor and carried.

John Mikrot, Water/Sewer Operator: Mikrot indicated that there were no issues to report.

Zoning and Planning: See new business B.

Nicole Bjorklund, City Administrator: Bjorklund gave an overview of the Liquor store financials stating June 2021 had \$4,000 profit with our YTD profit at \$24,000. There was a bar fight and the ambulance and police were called. Locals were not instigators in the fight therefore no further action was taken by the bar. As sales and profits are indicating we are VERY busy lately and that also means more individuals we don't see again. Bjorklund was able to hire a cleaning person and a bartender. She also indicated that with how busy it is her City duties are being pushed to the side to ensure that the money making bar is running and requested that by the end of the year a new lead bartender or a bar manager are hired so she can focus of the City duties more often. The City was finally paid for all special assessments on the Friel and Anthony properties from the County. MPCA was her to do a physical and paper audit of our sewer system. They audited records for 2012 to 2021 and found some issues with the ponds and the paperwork. A formal report will be issued as well a fine. Mikrot indicated he will pay the fine for things he did not report but should have.

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

Old business:

- A. Fire truck – The financial decision of the pumper truck payment for the fire department is between Northview Bank and Community Leasing Partners for either 7 or 10 years. The council agrees to a 10 year term with Northview Bank at 2.75%, payment to be made once per year. We will cash in the 182 day CD as partial down payment with the remaining portion of the \$100,000 down payment coming from the Fire Department fund. Motion to approve the financial decision by Hedtke, seconded by Drahosh with Price and Luedtke in favor and Byers abstaining due to working for Northview.
- B. Creamery building – Decision by the court system for the City to demolish the building will be given on July 20 in a zoom meeting. No action has been taken by the property owner.

New business:

- A. We have been notified by Pine County that the company that performs the recycling has decided that they will discontinue the recycling sheds/dumpsters. This comes after several warnings to users of the recycling facility about leaving garbage behind. The garbage being hauled away amounts to six to ten yards of garbage per week, which is not the purpose of the recycling center. They will be removed in early August. Bjorklund indicated a concern that users will then turn to the City's garbage bins and dumpsters to dispose of their garbage and we will endure more cost. The Council suggested giving it a break-in period to see what happens after the recycling center is discontinued. If it becomes an issue, we will look at enclosing our garbage area.
- B. Trent Rabe submitted his plan for the water line extension on Broadway where Northern Contractors is building more homes. Mikrot gives his general approval of the plan and will discuss clean out hydrants with Rabe. Motion to approve drawing/plan by Drahosh, seconded by Hedtke with all in favor and carried.
- C. Bjorklund indicated it is budget time again and needs two members of the council for the budget committee. Byers volunteered and Luedtke was nominated.
- D. Bjorklund advised that she officially received Dennis Slama's retirement date of October 31, 2021 and an ad will go in the papers next week for two weeks. The council states that the next individual will have graduated high school. Pay will be based on experience but between \$20-\$25 per hour likely as a CDL is preferred, though we would be willing to pay for certification in the future. Person of interest will be required to supply their own tools as the City does not provide them.

E. Finlayson Giese Lion's Club submitted an application for a one day gambling license for St. Urho's bingo. A motion was made by Drahosh to approve the application , seconded by Byers with all in favor and carried.

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

Nicole Bjorklund, City Clerk/Administrator