

Finlayson City Council
Regular Meeting
June 14, 2021

The regular city council meeting was called to order Monday, June 14, 2021 by Tom Price, Mayor at 6:30 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Others present: Wyatt Lucht, Russ Lucht, Barb Morgan, Bill Morgan, Vickie Oetterer, Josh Martin, Marge Haefner, John Linden and Dave Auchter.

Petitions from residents: Dave Auchter is requesting the city council to send a letter to the DNR regarding the condition of the Munger Trail and lack of maintenance to the trail causing trail riders to use the highways. His hope is that with the backing of the City that the repairs will get done, as they have been budgeted for the past 12 years but nothing has been done. Marge Haefner is questioning the validity of a rumor about vandalism and peeping persons during the overnight hours. Mayor Price indicated that the graffiti had been taken care of as soon as it was noticed by City staff. The peeping individuals situation was indicated for her to call the Sheriff's office. Haefner also requested that the City inquire about having another town hall meeting involving Jeff Nelson from the PCSO and County Attorney Reese Frederickson.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Drahosh to approve minutes from the May 10, 2021 regular council meeting, seconded by Hedtke with all in favor and carried. A motion was made by Hedtke to approve minutes from the May 18, 2021 public hearing, seconded by Drahosh with all in favor and carried

Reports:

Fire Department: Chief Wyatt Lucht reported that May had 9 calls totaling 68 man hours. Two fire calls, one of which was a grass fire billed to the DNR, and seven medical calls. The trophies for the 4th of July water fight have been ordered. Specs for a new Pumper truck were discussed in depth. A quote was received from both Northview Bank and Community Leasing Partners for several different loan terms between 7 and 10 years for approximately \$330,000. The payments would be between \$26,000 to \$33,000 per year. The Pumper truck that is quoted is a stock unit that is available currently. There would be some customizations done for our department. The old pumper will either be kept as a back-up rig or it will be put up for bid. Even though the old pumper only has 18,000 miles, it is over 20 years old which if we kept it in service as the main pumper the ISO rating would increase and so would home owners policy costs. A motion was made by Luedtke to approve the purchase of the pumper, seconded by Hedtke with Byers in favor while Price and Drahosh abstained from voting for the truck due to membership on the fire dept. The financing decision will be handled in the July meeting.

John Mikrot, Water/Sewer Operator: Mikrot was absent though Bjorklund stated there was nothing to report on his behalf.

Zoning and Planning: See new business B and C.

Nicole Bjorklund, City Administrator: Bjorklund gave an overview of the Liquor store financials stating May 2021 was our second highest month of sales in history and had \$8,000 profit with our YTD profit at \$16,000. The Dept of Health performed their annual inspection of the facility and we passed without any issues. Bjorklund inquired about how we sit in terms of the needs to open the kitchen and they said we should be fine and would only need to apply for an updated food license and submit a plan. Luedtke offered a suggestion of possibly leasing the kitchen to someone. In the past we have used wrist bands to visibly control the carding of minors and considering we expect the 4th to be VERY busy, Bjorklund is requesting to do it again. Luedtke and Price volunteered their time to the wrist band process with council's agreement that we need to continue to do this during major events. Bjorklund advised the council of the restrictions on the ARPA funding and it would be an application process asking if we should apply or not as we have no specific COVID costs we can determine. Council agrees that by applying we would only likely have to send most of it back so the decision was agreed to not apply. Bjorklund indicates that we are in need to 2 additional employees at the bar, one for bartending and one for cleaning as one current employee is out with cancer that did both roles. Previously the pool table was pulled from the bar due to COVID, Bjorklund is requesting of the council to allow the pool table to be put back in, council agrees.

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

Old business:

- A. Fire truck – See report from Chief Lucht

New business:

- A. A request from a resident was received regarding giving credit to residents that are watering their gardens and yards due to the draught conditions. The council agreed that because the water tower was over-engineered that we will allow a credit of the sewer portion of the excess water usage compared to prior months. Bjorklund will send a letter in the water bills for customers to contact City Hall to advise of watering and to credit sewer above 400 gallons (base rate) will be adjusted.
- B. Roger Revier submitted a building permit application for his property to the south of the old Catholic church on School Street. A motion was made by Drahosh to approve the application and issue a building permit, seconded by Luetke with all in favor and carried.
- C. Jerry Pizzella submitted his application for the 4th of July fireworks display. The new location will be Bruce Pogatchnik's field near Hwy 18 and Finlayson Road due to the new houses going in by the old factory. A motion was made by Luedtke to approve the application, seconded by Drahosh with all in favor and carried.

- D. Finlayson Giese Lion's Club submitted an application for a one day liquor license for August 14th for a wedding. A motion was made by Drahosh to approve the application, seconded by Hedtke with all in favor and carried.
- E. Finlayson Giese Lion's Club submitted an application for a one day liquor license for September 18th for St. Urho's celebration. A motion was made by Drahosh to approve the application, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried.
- F. With the 4th of July falling on a Sunday this year, Bjorklund is requesting that the hours be 8am to midnight for the bar with off-sale being 11am to 6pm. A motion was made by Hedtke to approve the temporary hour change, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried.
- G. Considering the staff that we have currently has toughed it out through COVID and was not given a raise this year, there has been a request to ask for some kind of incentive. A motion was made by Luedtke to approve a \$250 incentive to those employees that have been with the bar long term and worked through COVID and picked up those extra shifts when we were short, seconded by Hedtke with all in favor and carried.

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

Nicole Bjorklund, City Clerk/Administrator