

Finlayson City Council
Regular Meeting
March 13th 2023

The regular city council meeting was called to order Monday, March 13, 2023 by Tom Price, Mayor at 6:30 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Members present: Nadine Hedtke, Russell Lucht, and Barb Morgan. Mike Drahosh was absent.

Others present: John Mikrot, Wyatt Lucht, Erick Blaisdell, Bill Morgan, Noree Wicklander, Vicki Oetterer, Bev Mensing and Pat Kraetzner

Addition or Corrections:

Compliments and Complaints:

Resident complaining of neighbors blocking driveway, have been asked multiple times to move with no result wondering if the city could do anything to help. Price suggests writing a letter to resident.

Residents and plowing companies have been pushing snow into streets. This is illegal per Minnesota statute 160.2715. City is to adopt and enforce that state statute with a fine of up to \$1000. Motioned by B. Morgan and seconded by N. Hedtke with all in favor and carried. People doing so have been spoken with. W. Lucht states they have been hauling extra loads of snow out costing the city more money and time on cleaning the streets up. Maintenance has been advised that if issue persists to return said snow to property owner's premises and is to not clean out end of driveway.

Reports:

Fire Department: Chief Lucht reports the department had 8 medical calls and 1 vehicle with a total 71-man hours. One of the trucks had the batteries short out. Russ Lucht and Erick Blaisdell came to the rescue and removed and replaced said batteries. There was an anonymous donation of \$2000 given to the department. It is greatly appreciated and will be put to good use. Department had previously applied for a grant through FEMA for new radios, they will need to reapply in the spring. New computer has arrived and is up and running. Brush pile burn is placed on hold due to the snow but they would like to burn while we have still have some snow on the ground.

John Mikrot, Water/Sewer Operator: No big updates at this time. John attended annual conference. Renner & Renner will be doing a well inspection at a price of \$100/well. We have two wells and they will be done in the spring.

Zoning and Planning: No update at this time.

Ashley Lucht, City Clerk: A.) Transfer of \$35,000 from Liquor fund to General Fund completed. With this transfer the bar does have a net loss of \$29,000 B.) Oven at the muni needed to be replaced, was still under warranty so a new one was sent out. Shortly after receiving

replacement, the replacement broke. Company was willing to refund us the total initial cost of the oven. Lucht to order new oven before sending current one back. C.) We were approached about adding the muni into the fundraiser coupon books for the local schools. We will be offering two coupons of \$5 off \$25 or more on the bar side only, no off-sale and two coupons for a free appetizer with purchase of a pizza. D.) Post Office sign has been delivered and will be setup when the weather permits. We should also be receiving a reimbursement check for some of the shipping.

Dawn Tasler, Deputy Clerk: Dawn has been working on scenarios for the fire contracts. Wagner Township had some questions regarding theirs in the previous month's meeting and asked to have it relooked at. At this time we have received all payments from other townships and were unable to change the cost of their contract. Mayor Price asked Tasler to write a letter regarding this to the township with their invoice. R. Lucht would like to see the Fire Department and City come together to work on a budget for the contracts; Chief Lucht would like to have added into future contracts that they can pay in two installments if needed.

Motion made by Hedtke to accept February financials and pay bills, seconded by R. Lucht with all in favor and carried.

Old business:

A: Bar Electrical work for kitchen equipment; After February's meeting we had a 2nd electrician come in and verify the need for a new panel to be placed. Motion by Hedtke to approve \$6850 bid from Veteran Electric seconded by R. Lucht. A. Lucht will be in contact with business to set an install date. A grease issue was brought up with what we will do with fryer grease.

New business:

A: Finlayson Giese Lions Club; Requesting a liquor license for anniversary on May 20th 2023. Motioned by Hedtke and seconded by Morgan, all in favor and passed. Also inquiring on a gambling license to change the location for bingo for one day, Saturday June 10th 2023. They would like to host in the community center to house more people. Motion by Morgan to approve and seconded by Hedtke with all in favor and passed.

B: Pine County Animal Welfare; Requesting permission to use one of the front office rooms in city hall for their monthly meetings. Meetings are held once per month on the 3rd Wednesday. Motion by Morgan to approve use of room and seconded by Hedtke with the agreement that if someone wants to rent the room in the future they will have to find a different location for their meetings.

C: Parking Enforcement; Parking north of 18 on Front Street during community events. Wyatt Lucht would like to see "no parking" signs permanently on one side of the street due the street being narrow, would also like to paint the curbs red. It is difficult to maneuver the fire trucks or rescue when there isn't enough space. Would also like to speak to property owner at the end of 3rd Ave regarding putting a turnaround in to make it easier to turn fire equipment and plow truck around.

D: Northern Contractors Building Permit; Requesting a permit for a new structure on Dixon Line Road. Motion by Hedtke to approve, seconded by R. Lucht with all in favor and carried.

E: Ordinances; Tasler and Lucht would like to go through ordinances and update them, would also like to adopt LMC's MN Basic Code of Ordinances.

F: Water Billing; Inquiring about changing how we handle customers that trickle water during the cold months. Price suggested that instead of averaging 3 months every billing cycle we pick a "running season" month and that is what the customer will be charge all winter. For the meters we are unable to access due to the snow or not having access to the building, those customers will see just a base rate charge and once we can read the meter they should expect an incline in amount due as they will be charge from what our last meter reading was to what we currently find.

G: In Person Voting; Mayor Price would like the clerks to contact the county and bring information to next meeting.

H: Streets; B. Morgan mentioned the streets are getting rough and would like to find the cost of repair and address issues. Clerks to look into budget. Morgan also mentioned she was informed that when Pine Lake Rd and Dixon Line are plowed that they are taking the new gravel off the road.

I: Council Training; Barb asking if the council would approve her taking training and reimburse her cost; she just needs to provide a receipt.

J: Resolution 2023-03; Anonymous donation of \$2,000 to the Finlayson Fire and Rescue department. Motion by B. Morgan to accept seconded by Hedtke.

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

Ashley Lucht, City Clerk