

Finlayson City Council
Regular Meeting
March 9, 2020

The regular city council meeting was called to order Monday, March 9, 2020 by Tom Price, Mayor at 6:30 PM.

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

Others present: Wyatt Lucht, Bill Morgan, Vickie Oetterer, Dave Schaefer, Russ Lucht, Alanea White.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Luedtke to approve minutes from the February 10, 2020 regular council meeting, seconded by Drahosh with all in favor and carried.

Additions: E: Skaff – factory tract division

Reports:

Fire Department: Chief Wyatt Lucht reported that February had 11 medical calls and one fire calls, for a total of 70.5 man hours. Fire truck certification is due this year and is required to avoid reduction in ISO department rating which affects the funding available from the state and coverage for homeowners. Several new pages are needed to replace outdated and failing units. A motion was made by Byers to approve \$2,060 to purchase 5 new pages, seconded by Drahosh with all in favor and carried. Mutual aid contracts are due for updating. The contracts are for every department in the county to provide mutual aid. All dry hydrants must now be located by GPS and be painted red. The dept will be working on this in the near future.

John Mikrot, Water/Sewer Operator: The potential for purchasing a pump and putting it on the shelf would be warranted by the vendor but Mikrot is waiting for a formal written letter before be proceed with a new pump purchase.

Zoning and Planning: No issues to discuss at this time.

Nicole Bjorklund, City Administrator: Bjorklund gave an overview of the Liquor store financials stating February 2020 had a net profit of approximately \$2,000 and YTD profit of approximately \$700 which is an improvement from the same period last year of over \$6,000. Electronic pull tab sales for the first month were over \$17,000 with a profit of over \$2,500 for the 15% bar share of nearly \$400. With our first mail ballot primary in the books, we had about 43% of ballots mailed in which is higher than most, if not all, physical election location in Pine County.

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

Old Business:

- A. City Hall/Post Office furnaces are in need or replacement due to age and failures. Several quotes were received. The council suggests replacing one unit per year. Bjorklund to get an updated quote from the lowest bidder for one unit.
- B. The old muni is for sale and Dave Schaefer (owner) is giving the City the first chance to purchase it back if they wish. The Council agrees that there is no need for the building or money available to purchase a \$150,000 building. However, Schaefer suggests that they enter into a lease agreement to continue to allow the bar patrons to park on his portion of the parking lot. The lease would allow the use of the parking lot in exchange for maintaining the lot, i.e. plowing, pothole filling, etc. Bjorklund to contact the City Attorney to draw up a contract. A motion was made by Drahosh to accept a lease agreement for 2 years for the old muni lot maintenance in exchange for use of the lot, seconded by Hedtke with all in favor and carried.

New business:

- A. The Finlayson Giese Lion's Club annual liquor license is due for renewal. Motion made by Luedtke to approval the liquor license, seconded by Byers with all in favor and carried.
- B. PID 380075001 is in tax forfeit status and Pine County as advised the City of ability to obtain the land. The City has no interest in this property.
- C. Ordinance 155 – Fee Schedule has been updated to accurately reflect the cost for special meetings and other special permits. It was also updated to increase the commercial sewer and water usage rates from 0.005 to 0.006 as commercial business put more of a strain on the system than residential users. A motion was made by Drahosh to approve the updated fee scheduled, seconded by Hedtke with all in favor and carried.
- D. Petry's has submitted a building permit application for expansion. A motion was made by Luedtke to approve the building permit application, seconded by Hedtke with all in favor and carried.
- E. The Fire Dept has decided to hire PERA to operate their retirement funding. The retirement payout will increase from \$600 to \$1100 per year. PERA did a cost analysis and it is feasible to increase and still have operating funds. A motion was made by Drahosh to approve PERA to handle the retirement for the Fire Dept, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried.
- F. Craig Skaff/Finlayson Properties is in the process of selling the old factory to DSE and will be separating the parcel in to one 3.5 acre lot with the building and one 11.5 acre lot which he will retain. The 11.5 acres will then in the future be turned into a development of houses. Currently this is zoned industrial and will need to transferred to residential in order to allow the building of houses. At this time the council is

approving the split of the parcel by motion from Drahosh, seconded by Hedtke with all in favor and carried.

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

Nicole Bjorklund, City Clerk/Administrator