

Finlayson City Council  
Regular Meeting  
May 8, 2023

The regular city council meeting was called to order Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 by Mike Drahosh, Deputy 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:** Tom Price, Mayor

**Others present:** John Mikrot, Wyatt Lucht, Erick Blaisdell, Hayley Erickson, Bobbi Eaton, Bill Morgan, Vicki Oetterer, and Marcus Johnson (Bolton & Menk)

**Additions or Corrections:** G: Northern Contractors building permit  
H. Depot  
I. LMC Conference  
J. MS-150  
K. Marcus Johnson – Bolton & Menk

**Compliments and Complaints:**

Councilmember Russell Lucht questioned the yield signs near Water Ave and First Street, indicating the signs should be stop signs, rather than yield signs. Clerks to research. R. Lucht also mentioned some curbs are in need of repair due to broken catch basins. Councilmember Lucht noted the equipment for the city should have a repair and maintenance schedule done regularly. R. Lucht also brought up a resident adding a sidewalk and inquired if a building permit is needed. Clerks to get building permit clarification. Councilmember Lucht indicated fire numbers for properties on Broadway Street need to be positioned. Erick Blaisdell (maintenance) questioned the speed limit signs and how to get drivers to abide by them. Clerks to look into pricing on stop signs and speed signs for Front Street and School Street. Blaisdell reminded the council of the Hillock fence installation. Deputy Mayor Drahosh requested the clerks to place a request for bids of a 6' privacy fence with a gate. Fence tabled until more information becomes available. Blaisdell noted Craig Skaff helped the city immensely this past winter with the removal of all the snow and asked what we can do to show our appreciation. Clerks to brainstorm ideas. Blaisdell advised the council of ongoing animal complaints on Sherman Road. Clerks sent warning letter to property owner last month along with a copy of the city's animal ordinance. Clerks to send another letter to resident and will continue to work with the Minnesota Federated Humane Society and contact the Pine County Sheriff's Office to get the issue resolved as soon as possible.

**Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Morgan to approve minutes from the April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 regular council meeting, seconded by Hedtke with all in favor and carried.

## **Reports:**

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

Hydrant flushing was completed the last week of April. Mikrot found that 1 hydrant was not working on Lake Ave and put in a call to have fixed. Blower motor for aerator was reinstalled. The two dehumidifiers ordered last month were installed and are keeping the water tower dry. Mikrot thanked the council for the approval of making this purchase.

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

Fire Chief Lucht reported there were 9 calls for the month of April; 6 medical and 3 fires for a total of 78 man hours. W. Lucht said that fire season is upon us. W. Lucht ordered 3 new sets of turnout gear, each set costing \$1,200-\$1,500 more than last year. The DNR chopper is now available if needed. The city brush pile was burned mid-April and will have to be burned another time this summer since it is already growing. At the last mutual aid meeting there was mention of Pine County funding for those with flood related damages. If declared a disaster area and flood related damages occurred or there were downed power lines, we could be reimbursed for up to 75%. Clerks to investigate. SCBA's are now updated. Deputy Mayor Drahosh gave praise to the firefighters responding to the house fire that had recently occurred.

### ***Zoning and Planning:*** n/a

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

- The bar had a \$3,800 profit for April. The new appliances are up and running. Food sales are improving.
- Crazy Mary's – if a liquor license was granted, beer and wine are the alcoholic beverages that would be sold.
- MacArthur and Front Street residents expressed concern of brush down from tree trimming.
- Signing up the new lead bartenders, Hayley and Bobbi, for the upcoming ServSafe class in Hinckley to obtain their food license.

### ***Hayley Erickson & Bobbi Eaton, Lead Bartenders:***

The new lead bartenders are working together as they transition into their new roles. They will be taking on the responsibility of how the bar operates and prioritizing tasks left undone to make the bar and inventory more efficient. Together they created a job description for a bar cook and a bar back; hoping to fill these two positions as we head into the busy time of year. The kitchen will be open daily from 11am-8pm. Hayley and Bobbi stated they have become more comfortable cooking with the new equipment and hope the bartenders will adjust smoothly as well. They held a meeting with the bartenders to address any issues or concerns they may have. With being a municipal, employee discounts will cease. Bar tabs will not be allowed either. Clerks to find definition of "bar tab" to ensure we are in compliance with Minnesota State Auditor. Performance reviews will also be sought to start utilizing for all city employees.

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

**Old business:**

**A: Bar Manager Position;** One application was received and reviewed by the council. Deputy Mayor Drahosh suggested since Hayley and Bobbi were both interested in the bar manager position, to give them a chance as lead bartenders and see how they progress, rather than hiring a bar manager at this time. Other councilmembers were in agreeance. Clerks to send a letter to the applicant informing them of the decision.

**B: Street Repairs;** A bid was placed in the paper for repairs to be made to gravel roads Front Street, Water Ave, and MacArthur Road. Clerks to contact LeBrun, the county engineer, and also Marcus Johnson for information on how to obtain grants for other necessary street repairs. Maintenance personnel to patch portions that are in need of attention for the time being.

**C: Ordinances & Snow Ordinance Update;** The clerks received the 2023 edition of the Minnesota Basic Code of Ordinances. Clerks and councilmembers are to review and compare to current ordinances the City has, and decide which ordinances to update, amend, and repeal if applicable. The snow ordinance was updated with new verbiage, Morgan motioned to accept the update and was seconded by Hedtke.

**D: DSE Waterline Repair Proposal;** Trent Rabe submitted his proposal for the waterline repair. When the original waterline was installed, it was too shallow. The City is only responsible for its portion of the affected area, DSE is accountable for the rest. R Lucht suggested Class 5 gravel instead of blacktop for covering. Clerks to request a new proposal omitting bituminous. Deputy Mayor Drahosh tabled for next month when an updated price is received.

**New business:**

**A: Eide-Bailley 2022 Audit Review;** Jamie Fay from Eide-Bailley called in to City Hall while council was present to discuss the 2022 audit completion and answer any questions and concerns. Ms. Fay stated it was a “clean” audit and tests performed on selected records such as invoices and payroll showed no issues. The findings in the audit were that of ones that are common in small governments with few employees such as segregation of duties, preparation of financials, and material journal entries.

**B. Bonuses;** Bonuses should not be given to city employees. An incentive pay can be permissible, however, should be based on more than hours worked and the \$25,000 profit goal of the bar. Clerks to create a spreadsheet for 2022 to use as an example and present to council at next month’s meeting for further discussion. Subject tabled.

**C. National Night Out;** E. Blaisdell suggested the City hosting a National Night Out similar to what other local cities do. Asking if the City could contribute and to consider asking the Finlayson Community Club and Finlayson-Giese Lions Club to help as well. Blaisdell to be appointed Chairperson of the event. Recommendations made to reach out to local schools for support.

**D. Peace Lutheran Church – 4<sup>th</sup> of July Event;** Peace Lutheran Church sent a letter requesting to utilize the Finlayson Fire Hall on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July like they have in years past. It was indicated that last year fire department tools and items were stolen from the fire trucks, due to having to park outdoors for the Church to operate in the Fire Hall. There is also a potential risk of theft with numerous people in and out of the Fire Hall. Motion was made by Morgan to not allow anyone to operate at the Fire Hall, seconded by Hedtke. R. Lucht and Drahosh abstained from

voting due to conflict of interest. An alternate option was given for the Church to set up next to Finlayson City Hall. They could install tents or canopies and bring picnic tables for seating. Clerks to send letter to Church with suggestion.

**E: Sidewalk at Old Catholic Church;** The sidewalk near the Church is in need of repair. Motion to repair the sidewalk in house, rather than request bids by Hedtke, seconded by R Lucht.

**F. Citywide Garage Sales;** Confirmed the date for the annual city-wide garage sales will be Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> through Sunday June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Clerks to place advertisement in paper, add to City website, and post on the City's Facebook page. Clerks to create list of participants. Those who want to be including in the listing are to contact City Hall.

**G. Building Permit;** Building permit received from Northern Contractors for a new structure on Broadway Street. Hedtke motioned to approve and seconded by R Lucht.

**H. Depot;** It was brought up that the windows of the Depot are broken. The Community Club would like to repair the Depot. Building was thought to be abandoned and empty, however, items are still present inside. The ownership of the depot was questioned, clerks to look into.

**I. LMC Conference;** LMC will be hosting a conference for newly elected officials in June.

Approval of cost for those attending motioned by Hedtke, seconded by R. Lucht.

**J. MS-150;** The annual MS-150 bike ride will take place on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Clerks wanting to confirm there is nothing they need to prepare for. Clerks were told no preparation is required on their part, but the Finlayson Rescue will be nearby and on hand.

**K. Marcus Johnson – Bolton & Menk;** Marcus Johnson from Bolton & Menk attended the council meeting to introduce himself as the City's Engineer. He took over for our previous engineer, Joe Pelewa. He stated he is able and available to assist the City with applying for grants and funding for highway projects, parks & trails, attaining clean water, and the fire department. Mr. Johnson can also provide grant writing in an effort to obtain grants and funding.

A motion was made by Drahosh to adjourn at 8:40 pm, seconded by Hedtke with all in favor and carried.

Council meeting re-opened at 8:42pm to address a fire contract with a local township and how they will be submitting payments. Motion to accept splitting payments by Hedtke and seconded by Morgan with all in favor.

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

Dawn Tasler  
Deputy Clerk