

Finlayson City Council
Regular Meeting
November 12, 2019

The regular city council meeting was called to order Tuesday, November 12, 2019 by Tom Price, Mayor at 6:30 PM.

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

Others present: John Mikrot, Bill Morgan, Alanea White, Greg Sorenson, and Mel Hedlund.

Nadine Hedtke sworn in as new council member filling a vacant seat left open when Tom Price took over as mayor. The seat will be up for election in 2020.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Luedtke to approve minutes from October 7, 2019 regular council meeting, seconded by Hedtke with all in favor and carried.

Reports:

Fire Department: Assistant Chief Bill Morgan reported that October had six medical calls and two fire calls, both of which were cancelled in route, for a total of 27 man hours. The hoses and necessary other equipment have been purchased with the 50/50 grant received from the MN DNR. The ice rescue suits purchased with the 100% grant received from Compeer Financial have been received and training was successful.

John Mikrot, Water/Sewer Operator: Mikrot informed the council that he will be recharging the media at the treatment facility and then the tower will come down to half capacity for the winter.

Zoning and Planning: There has been no communication with the owner of the old creamery building. Bjorklund will continue to try to contact them.

Nicole Bjorklund, City Administrator: Bjorklund gave an overview of the Liquor store financials stating October 2019 had a net income of just over \$3,000 and the start of November was looking good with hunting opening weekend having over \$12,000 in sales. Also, the year to date net income is just over \$63,000 indicating another good year for the liquor store/bar. With the grant and funds donated by the Lions', we were able to purchase and receive an AED for the liquor store/bar, training will be scheduled in the coming weeks for all bartenders. The 50/50 grant from the State of MN has been approved and Bjorklund is working on the paperwork, though given the weather, the installation will likely be next spring. Bjorklund had communication with the Sheriff's office and the County Attorney regarding the curfew ordinance and those not abiding by it. The Sheriff's office has indicated that considering the City does not have a contract with the Sheriff's office, that they would not be able to enforce it unless it lead to greater issues. A contract with the Sheriff's office would be too costly to the City for sure a minor offense so the City will work with the City Attorney if the need should arise. The County

Attorney has indicated that the curfew ordinance is out of date and needs to be updated in order to be enforced. Bjorklund will work to get the ordinance updated and published. A motion was made by Hedtke to update and publish ordinance, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried. Beavers are once again a cause for concern and the county will be opening a big beaver dam on Hwy 35 which will accept the City so we have contracted with Rabe Excavating to get the other dams downstream that are in the city limits taken care of. Bjorklund approached the council about being open at the liquor store/bar on New Year's Day. Historically the liquor store/bar has been closed New Year's Day because of inventory, however inventory is typically done by 9am therefore it could be open at noon for the day. There was full agreement from the council to be open.

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

Old Business:

- A. There were two bids received for the welder. Mike Bjorklund bid \$265 and Dean Pogatchnik bid \$501. A motion was made by Hedtke to accept the bid of \$501, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried.

New business:

- A. The Community Club is requesting that the City pay for the new Christmas snowflake lights while they would supply all of the labor to modify, update and install the lights. The cost of 13 new snowflakes would be \$975. A motion was made by Hedtke to allow payment of the snowflakes, seconded by Byers with all in favor and carried.
- B. One of the heating units in the City garage is failing and has been repaired as best as possible but is in need to replacement. D&E quoted \$4-5000 to replace each unit. Both units are over 30 years old and should be replaced as parts for repair are no longer available. Bjorklund indicated that she found standard garage heater units available at Menards for around \$500 each and the maintenance team could install them. A motion was made by Luedtke to purchase the new units, seconded by Hedtke with all in favor and carried.
- C. The fire hall has historically been paying \$400 per month for water usage. The Fire department feels this is unjustified considering the small number of fires in which they respond to in our area. Mikrot looked at the fire hall in order to see about installing meters and it was determined it would be too costly and require significant modifications to the current system. The fire dept suggested reporting to Bjorklund on a monthly basis the amount of water used as they already record this as part of the paperwork anyway. Considering this will be a savings of nearly \$3600 per year, Bjorklund will now bill the actual usage instead of a flat rate.
- D. Resolution 2019-07 to designate a new polling location of the Pine County Courthouse due to the change to mail in ballots was agreed by motion from Byers, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried.

- E. Resolution 2019-08 to certify unpaid bills to county taxes was agreed by motion from Byers, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried.
- F. Pine Lake Township has submitted a building application to build a salt/sand shed at the Pine Lake town hall. A motion was made by Hedtke to grant the building permit, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried.
- G. Northern Contractors has submitted a building application to build a new duplex home on Broadway Street. A motion was made by Luedtke to grant the building permit, seconded by Byers with all in favor and carried.

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

Nicole Bjorklund, City Clerk/Administrator