

Finlayson City Council - Regular Meeting  
Finlayson City Hall  
November 13, 2023 @ 6:30pm

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

**Council Members present:** Russell Lucht, Barb Morgan, Joe Okun, and Kim Schaefer

**Council Members absent:** none

**Others present:** John Mikrot, Randy Millner, Wyatt Lucht, Hayley Erickson, Bobbi Eaton, Bill Morgan, Caitlin Norton, George Slama

**Additions:**

- Two building permits add to 5. F.
- Move new business N to new business A

**Public Comments:** None

**Compliments and Complaints:**

- A. Local resident complained about bartender. Followed up on in Closed Meeting.
- B. Music too loud in bar. Eaton suggested replacing ceiling tiles to help with acoustics and to decrease volume when necessary.
- C. Complaint of unruly customers and dancing on bar. Eaton made aware next day and used as coaching moment to give to direction for preventative measures in the future.

**Approval of Minutes:**

- A. A motion was made by Morgan to approve minutes from the October 10th, 2023 regular council meeting provided adding “net” income to Eaton report and New Business A “vacationed” replaced with “vacated.” Second by Schafer with all in favor and carried.
- B. A motion was made by Lucht to approve minutes from the October 25, 2023 special council meeting. Second by Okun with all in favor and carried.

**Reports:**

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

Mikrot cleaned gate valves, will be charging media soon. Pump at water plant is aging we need to start looking at a new pump. This will need a 6-8 month lead time to receive. Okun to work with Mikrot and report back after talking with MN Rural Water. Water meter calibration / check on Hedtke meter will be done next week.

***Randy Millner, Public Works:*** All equipment is as ready for snow as possible but will need plow. Lucht W offered the use of his own personal blade for plowing. The shop is lacking many tools. Okun motioned to approve \$500 for tools and maintenance for rest of this year. Morgan second with all in favor and carried.

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

Since the last city council meeting, there have been 9 calls; 2 of which were fire and 7 medical, for a total of 22 resource hours since last meeting. The city's brush pile has been burned. Trucks annual certifications completed. Valves on tanker have been fixed. Panel lights to be replaced. November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 fire contracts meeting held. Wagner Township questioned calculation procedure. Aitkin and Pine handle taxes differently. Internet has been down at Fire Hall for over a week. City Hall now aware and troubleshooting will begin. If no resolution Clerk can inquire with SCI to get Fire Hall their own internet.

***Planning & Zoning:*** An amended building permit from Splitrock Storage was brought forth. Only change was moving one structure 40' closer to other structure already approved. Decided no new permit needed. Motion by Okun to approve, second by Morgan. All in favor and motion carried.

Eric Olsen request a permit for concrete slab on grade. Okun motion to table until more information given. Auchter second. All in favor and motion carried.

***Dawn Tasler, Deputy Clerk:*** Nothing new to report

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

Eaton reports the liquor store had a net income of close to \$10,000 for month of October. Eaton inquired the budget for the bar's entertainment. Inquired about enforcing minimum of \$10.00 to use credit card to help alleviate some costs incurred by city. Okun motion to approve Jan 1, 2024 minimum card purchase goes in effect. Schaefer second. All in favor and motion carried. Eaton requests clerks advertise cook position opening again as recent hire quit. Morgan requests all entertainment provide an invoice to get paid. Clerks to follow up about extra liability for more entertainment.

Motion made by Morgan to accept October financials and pay bills, seconded by Okun with all in favor and carried.

**Old business:**

**A: ESST;** Discussion of bar cleaners wage hourly vs salary and how it affects the new law. Tabled.

**B: New City Website;** The City's new website is still not on Google searches. All efforts have been exhausted by clerks. At this time can only wait until Google updates with new website.

**C: Claim Forms;** City will be going back to original process of paying bills. A resolution will be brought forth to grant approval to do so.

**D: New Maintenance worker hired;** Acknowledgement of new maintenance worker hired since last month meeting to replace Blaisdell.

**E: Deputy Clerk hours;** Hours will be approximately 12 hours per week on days as needed. Okun motion to reduce hours. Schaefer second with all in favor and motion carried.

**F: Conducting meetings rules of order;** Tabled

**G: Planning and Zoning Commission;** Auchter to solicit membership for commission and zoning official.

**New business:**

**A: Standing Committees;** Auchter requesting building three committees Budget, Personnel, and Facilities. Subject tabled.

**B: Certify unpaid Water/Sewer bills to county;** Morgan motion to certify. Okun second. All in favor and motion carried.

**C: Lucht A wage increase;** Okun motion to approve \$25.00 per hour for reconciling. Morgan second. All in favor and motion carried. Lucht R abstained.

**D: Goodman wage increase;** Tabled

**E: Records at PCH Museum;** Morgan motioned to bring records back to City Hall. Schaefer second. All in favor and motion carried.

**F: Insurance Liability Waiver;** Needed signature.

**G: Letter of support for ECE Broadband project;** Auchter indicated could possibly violate franchise with SCI. Goodman to research.

**H: Pressure Wash of water tower;** Will revisit next summer.

**I: Banning Sewer District;** Tabled

**J: Temporary Stipend adjustment for 2024;** Auchter proposes council stipend to be cut by 50% for 2024. Auchter motion to approve. Morgan second. All in favor and motion carried.

**K: 2024 Budget;** Schedule special meeting for November 29, 2023 @ 6:30 PM.

**L: 2023 Audit firm & engineer RFP;** Clerks to send RFP for auditors; Morgan motion to approve. Okun second. All in favor and motion carried.

**M: Council training opportunities;** Auchter willing to put together training opportunities for council members to visit facilities/departments to gain more knowledge.

**N: Performance Reviews;** Tabled

**O: Mayoral Initiatives;** Tabled

Auchter motion to recess for closed meeting at 9:55 pm.

Open meeting reconvened 10:21 pm.

Morgan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:22 pm, Okun second. With all in favor and carried.

Shelly Goodman  
City Clerk