

Finlayson City Council
Regular Meeting
November 14, 2022

The regular city council meeting was called to order Monday, November 14, 2022 by Tom Price, Mayor at 6:30 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Others present: John Mikrot, Wyatt Lucht, Russ Lucht, Erick Blaisdell, Bill Morgan, Barb Morgan, and Vickie Oetterer.

Correction: Remove B from new business and Lion's Club is unavailable to attend.

Addition: H: Bar Cleaning
I: Bank resolution for check signatures
J: Northern Contractors land division

Complaints: Resident complaint about not being able to vote in person. Council acknowledges complaint and indicates a mix of positive and negative statements on voting by mail. This year we had the most amount of voters at 111 in recent history.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Hedtke to approve minutes from the October 18, 2022 regular council meeting, seconded Luedtke by with all in favor and carried.

Reports:

Fire Department: Chief Wyatt Lucht reported that October had 11 total calls, seven medical calls, one vehicle and two fire calls and one mutual aid for 102 man hours.

John Mikrot, Water/Sewer Operator: Mikrot was able to get the aerator motor removed and sent in for repair but with the cost to repair and the age of the motor it made more sense to order a new one. The company with the aerator motor is also going to quote the high capacity motor. Mikrot asks council about buying additional spare parts for water/sewer systems to have on hand instead of waiting for weeks sometimes to get parts, council agrees to the need for spare parts on hand.

Zoning and Planning: Northern Contractors have submitted a request for approval for additional land division of the property on Broadway Street per the submitted survey report. A motion was made by Luedtke, seconded by Hedtke with all in favor and carried.

Nicole Bjorklund, City Administrator: Bjorklund gave an overview of the Liquor store financials stating October 2022 had a net loss of \$2,500 with YTD profit at approximately \$93,500. Bjorklund noted that the Deputy Clerk training is going well, just slow because of the system

issues we've been having lately. Bjorklund stated that no applications have been received for her replacement yet.

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

Old business:

- A. Mayor Price is looking to reduce sick time to 40 hours per year but not allow any carryover. Byers suggested switching to PTO (combining vacation and sick time under one category) and allowing 80 hours to be carried over. Possibility of 80 hours PTO after one year of service. Hours accrued is based on minimum of 1000 hours worked in prior year. Motion by Byers to approve PTO change with adding 40 hours of sick time to currently established vacation time allotment policy with a maximum of 80 hours to be carried over, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried. Price suggests putting a wage cap on all employees' wages to protect the City from over paying wages. Council agrees to Clerk wage cap at \$25/hr, Deputy Clerk wage cap at \$21/hr, Bar Manager wage cap to be discussed at December meeting, Maintenance wage cap at \$30/hr, bartender wage cap at \$15/hr. A motion was made by Drahosh to approve the wage caps, seconded by Hedtke with all in favor and carried.
- B. Bjorklund advised the Council that the hood modification for the kitchen was started but cannot be completed until equipment has been sourced because the vendor needs to know the location and the power source before completing. Bjorklund to work with Noree to help her determine vendor and equipment needed.

New business:

- A. Resolution 2022-13 for canvassing board election results approved by motion from Drahosh, seconded by Hedtke with all in favor and carried. Results are Mayor: Tom Price by write in, Councilperson: Barb Morgan by vote, Russell Lucht by write in.
- B. Council to decide on LMC liability insurance waiver for tort limits. Agree not to waive tort limits, approved by motion from Drahosh, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried.
- C. There was a physical property assessment done on all properties (completed every six years) owned by the City which resulted in a couple inaccuracies to be corrected. Previously the contents of the Community Center and old well house were not insurance as they are not our property but the assessor added them to the policy. Also included was the well house which is no longer used and would not be replaced/repaired if damaged. With the increased property values, the property values increased by nearly \$2mil therefore increasing the policy premium. Insurance agent suggests to increase deductible to save on premium costs as the City can more than handle a deductible increase as it sits at \$250 currently. Council agrees to assessment changes as well as a \$1000 deductible for the remainder of 2022 by motion from

Drahosh, seconded by Byers with all in favor and carried. Insurance agent to get quote for new policy for 2023 with deductible changes.

- D. Council reviewed quote from Midwest Constructors for the building of a new USPS sign which is our responsibility to replace per the lease agreement. Due to the cost the council suggests to use a local company to make a sign. Bjorklund to check with USPS on the process and on the immediate removal of the current damaged sign.
- E. Someone has been removing our no trespassing signs from the land by the sewer ponds and hunting there. The council eliminated the hunting on that property years ago and it has been posted yearly. Price is suggesting to allow a youth hunt or just two people, though the rest of the council sees that being too difficult to manage. Property will remain no hunting.
- F. Holiday pay for holidays not worked is currently only given to the clerk. Price suggests maintenance should get holiday pay as well. Price recommends reducing the holidays to only 4th of July, Thanksgiving, Friday after Thanksgiving and Christmas Day for maintenance and clerk but anyone that works on a holiday still gets double time for all 10 federal holidays. A motion to approve holiday reduction by Drahosh, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried.
- G. Bjorklund notified the council that the bar cleaning position has been advertised for a month with no applicants. Suggested hiring a cleaning company as the current only cleaner is getting exhausted and cleaning is suffering. Council requests to get quotes from cleaning companies to make decision. Bjorklund also suggests a higher wage for the cleaners as \$13 is likely the reason for no applicants.
- H. With Lois Okun and Nicole Bjorklund leaving, the signers for checks and other bank account access needs to be updated with Dawn Tasler (Deputy Clerk). A resolution for the bank, and signature log, need to have signatures from Tom, Jeremy and Dawn. A motion to approve removal of Nicole and Lois and addition of Dawn made by Drahosh, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried.
- I. Closed meeting held after regular meeting.

A motion was made by Luedtke to adjourn to go into the closed meeting, seconded by Drahosh with all in favor and carried.

Nicole Bjorklund, City Clerk/Administrator