

Finlayson City Council - Regular Meeting
Finlayson City Hall
October 10, 2023 @ 6:30pm

The regular city council meeting was called to order Tuesday, October 10, 2023 by David Auchter, Mayor at 6:30 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Oaths were recited by new Mayor and new Councilmembers (Auchter, Schaefer, and Okun). Motion by Morgan to appoint Lucht R as Deputy Mayor. Second by Schaefer. All in favor. Motion carried. New resolution created to update annual appointments with new councilmembers for the remainder of 2023. New bank resolutions to be updated with clerks, and recently appointed mayor and deputy mayor. Required forms provided to new councilmembers for employment and payroll purposes. Schaefer questioned if salary can be donated instead. Clarified payment needs to be accepted by councilmembers and donations given on their own behalf if they choose to do so.

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

Council Members absent: none

Others present: John Mikrot, Wyatt Lucht, Bobbi Eaton, and Bill Morgan

Additions: Old Business – A. Budget
New Business - H. Workshop Sessions & Field Trips
I. Council Materials
J. Bobcat Springs

Corrections: Regarding the September 25, 2023 regular council meeting minutes: change hours from “year to date” to “since last meeting” for Fire Department Report. Also add “proposed” to “New Business G. 2024 Levy Certification”. Referring to the October 5, 2023 special meeting, add dates of resignation for Mayor Tom Price and Councilmember Nadine Hedtke.

New Business A. replace “vacationed” to vacate.

Compliments and Complaints:

The smoking can outside post office/city hall is being disturbed. A minor is taking cigarette butts, smoking the remainder, and littering on the ground. A suggested solution was to fill the can with water and send a letter to the juveniles’ parents.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Morgan to approve September 25th meeting with addendum minutes. Lucht second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Morgan to approve October 5th Special meeting with addendum minutes. Lucht second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Reports:

John Mikrot, Water/Sewer Operator:

Hydrant flushing is complete. Two hydrants will need repairs next year. Media will be charged and gate valves to be cleaned out by end of this month or early November. Quarterly testing indicates iron and magnesium in water, which is common around our area. During the cold winter months suggests letting water drip in affected locations where freezing is an issue. BJSD meters will be calibrated.

Wyatt Lucht (Fire Chief) Fire Department:

Since the last city council meeting, there have been 4 calls; all of which were medical for a total of 22 resource hours since last council meeting. There have been 88 calls year to date, which is below average. Two firefighters (Price and Gilpin) have resigned since last meeting. W Lucht and Tasler have been working on 2024 fire contracts and the annual meeting held with the local townships will be Wednesday, November 1st, 2023.

Planning & Zoning: No building permits requested. See Old business **B**.

Dawn Tasler, Deputy Clerk: Mayor Auchter requested the most recent audit report to bring the new councilmembers up to speed. Reconciling for September has not yet been completed due to the clerks being unfamiliar with the process. Clerks to approach former clerk A Lucht for assistance and completing the reconciling here on out. Tasler to reduce hours to 3 days/week.

Bobbi Eaton, Lead Bartender: September's net income was down around \$1050.00. Insurance was paid in September so likely the cause of deficit. Bar will be closed October 22nd for deep clean of bar. All employees of bar expected to be there. Eaton to hire hood system cleaning company for required cleaning. Preparing for deer season and Gun Raffle. Jan 1, 2024 will be implementing new prices for rail liquor. The POS system is not user friendly and would like to research other options. Working on table service and working out kinks in the new set up of food service.

Over budget on entertainment but still profitable. Karaoke will be cut down in 2024 to every other month rather than monthly. Clerks will need to check if there are issues with liability insurance and rules with more entertainment.

Addendum: Add "net" income

Old business:

A: Proposed Levy/Budget: Morgan advised needs more involvement from councilmembers with budget. Auchter agreed to step up and help. Eaton will assist with liquor store budget.

B. Planning and Zoning Committee: No residents have shown interest in committee position. Requested each council member to reach out to community members for possible interest. An updated comprehensive and engineering plan is anticipated by Mayor Auchter for the good of the City.

New business:

A: School Street: Empty parking lot between Catholic Church and Pam Revier was discussed being “vacated” (given from City to either or split between both adjoining property owners. No advantage/disadvantage to City either way. Tabled.

Addendum: replace “vacationed” with “vacate”

B: City Clerk helping at bar: Council approved Clerk Goodman to step in and help at the Muni when necessary and in critical situations. Clerk duties come first, bar duties will be paid at lower rate. All agreed it is allowed.

C: Bills being paid monthly: Bills will now be paid and approved monthly at council meeting. Currently being paid weekly and approved monthly which is incorrect. Motion made by Lucht R to accept September financials and pay bills, Okun second, with all in favor and carried.

D: Snow removal Hillock fence: Snow cannot be pushed up towards the new fence installed. W Lucht will doze to parking lot and blow snow into truck to haul away.

E: City Hall closed Black Friday: Clerks have option to close day after Thanksgiving unpaid provided there are no city issues that need attention. Will update social media and city website.

F: Renting office space in City Hall: Periodically should advertise availability. Would like yearly lease if possible. Research needed for cost per square foot.

G: Erick Blaisdell resignation: Will accept applications until October 13th at 2:00 PM with interviews to be held October 20th with Lucht R, Okun (for mechanical knowledge-unable to vote due to conflict of interest) and Schaefer.

H: Workshop sessions for Council members: Auchter and Morgan would like some opportunities to have workshops and tours of different departments in the city. I.e. liquor store, water tower et al. Will need to post as possible quorum when dates are set.

I: Council Materials: Auchter would like three ring binders to provide to council members.

J. Bobcat Springs: Table until more research done due to price being extremely high on quote we received. Wyatt to dig deeper and find other options.

Another topic of discussion brought up by Okun about a liquor license for another establishment in city limits. Need both public and council input at some point for this to move forward.

Morgan made a motion to adjourn the meeting, with all in favor and carried. Meeting adjourned 8:46 PM.

Shelly Goodman
City Clerk