

Finlayson City Council  
Regular Meeting  
October 12, 2021

The regular city council meeting was called to order Tuesday, October 12, 2021 by Tom Price, Mayor at 6:30 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Others present: Wyatt Lucht, John Mikrot, Erick Blaisdell, Bill Morgan, Dave Auchter, Mary Sorenson, Greg Sorenson, Ron Redding, Sue Redding, Stacey Fales, Sonia Fales, Joseph Pelawa, and Craig Skaff.

Complaints have been received after the last meeting regarding the situation with the water. All residents were advised that Mikrot is actively working on the situation and will have it resolved as soon as possible. Since then the water has cleared up and no resolution or response is required at this time.

Additions: D: Broadway water main extension  
E: Dixon Line

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Drahosh to approve minutes from the September 13, 2021 regular council meeting, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried.

Reports:

Fire Department: Chief Wyatt Lucht reported that since the last meeting we had 10 calls totaling 97 man hours. One fire calls, eight rescue calls, and one vehicle accident. The training for the new truck has been completed. However, during the training it was discovered that the truck was built for locations south of Kansas City and we missing a pump cabinet heater to avoid freeze up of the water pump(s). Due to this issue we are not putting the truck into service as the main truck and holding off on stocking it fully until we can determine if it will need to be sent down to Rosenbauer to be modified. A quote will be coming for the modification(s) needed.

John Mikrot, Water/Sewer Operator: Mikrot indicated that 1/3 of the town jetting has been completed and the hydrant flushing will be done tomorrow. The filter media in the tower will be recharged and the tower will be brought down to winter level. Mikrot will get a quote on recertification of the media and replacement of the media for next year. The pond mowing is looking great. Price indicates that there is need for some washout areas to be filled in on the sides of the ponds as the mower almost went in the pond last time he mowed.

Zoning and Planning: none.

Nicole Bjorklund, City Administrator: Bjorklund gave an overview of the Liquor store financials stating September 2021 had a net profit of \$22,000 with our YTD profit at \$40,000. The new ice machine has finally arrived and will be put into service this week.

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

Old business:

- A. In April 2021 we notified 2326 State Hwy 18 of their continued blight conditions of their property and it needed to be cleaned up by June 30, 2021. The blight conditions still remain and are in fact worse than before with their new renters. The City attorney has now been contacted to order to progress the situation. They have been given until Oct. 31, 2021 to clean up the property or legal action will be taken.
- B. The Finlayson Giese Lion's Club is requesting up to \$17,000 from the City to be combined with the \$5000 grant received from ECE and the \$4000 rebate from MN Power for the replacement of the HVAC system at the Community Center costing approximately \$26,000 as quoted by D&E. They indicate that the Lion's Club is a major contributor to the success of the Muni and the City overall with events such as 4<sup>th</sup> of July and St. Urho's Day celebrations. Price suggests that we offer to match the \$5,000 grant from ECE. A motion was given by Drahosh to contribute \$5,000 toward facility improvements for the HVAC system, seconded by Byers with all in favor and carried.
- C. Dave Auchter approached the Council earlier in the year about him installing a culvert over the storm water drainage ditch which separates his two properties. Given that Auchter owns all the land and there is currently not an easement for the City, the culvert is up to him to manage. As a result of this discovery with no easement, Skaff has indicated he will allow easement on the remaining properties in the area of the ditch that he owns. Additionally, Auchter is questioning the use of his newly purchased land as well as others use of their own land for hunting in the new housing area surrounding Broadway Street. Bjorklund to investigate what areas are in the "City Proper" and where hunting is allowed.

New business:

- A. Community Club memberS in attendance are requesting the City make a push/drive for membership to the Community Club as well as having the council members become active members of the Club. Bjorklund indicated that she just put a notice in the water bills regarding membership and volunteers needed for the both Community Club and the Lion's Club. The club is at risk of being eliminated due to lack of participation. Most of the members currently on the club are not even part of the City.

- B. Finlayson Giese Lion's Club has submitted an application for a temporary liquor license for Hunter's Supper. A motion was made by Drahosh to approve the application, seconded by Hedtke with all in favor and carried.
- C. The City of Sandstone is in the process of funding and transfer location of their public library. They are requesting a letter indicating our support of this project. A motion was made by Drahosh showing support of the new public library, seconded by Hedtke with all in favor and carried.
- D. With the requirement of engineered plans to be submitted to the MDH, we need to hire Bolton & Menk to complete the work. The cost is likely able to be covered by the ARPA funds as it is water infrastructure expansion. The deadline of November 30th has been agreed to by Bolton & Menk and Northern Contractors in order to get it started before the freeze up. Skaff to send requested information to engineer regarding property lines and road information. A Motion was made by Drahosh to approve the \$8,000 cost of engineering and permitting by MDH, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried.
- E. Luedtke has been approached by Pine Lake Township grader about the need for gravel on Dixon Line this year or early next year. Bjorklund to contact Pine Lake and Finlayson Townships to find out about what they are willing to contribute to the gravel purchase.

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

Nicole Bjorklund, City Clerk/Administrator