

Finlayson City Council
Regular Meeting
October 18, 2022

The regular city council meeting was called to order Tuesday, October 18, 2022 by Tom Price, Mayor at 6:30 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Members present: Nadine Hedtke, Joe Luedtke, Mike Drahosh with Jeremy Byers via phone.

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

Addition: J: City Hall Computer
K: Bjorklund resignation
L: Closed meeting – Employee review

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Drahosh to approve minutes from the September 14, 2022 regular council meeting, seconded Hedtke by with all in favor and carried.

Reports:

Fire Department: Chief Wyatt Lucht reported that September had 9 total calls, six medical calls, one vehicle and two fire calls. Chief Lucht discussed that the budget needs to be updated for 2023 and new Township rates to be determined because the State Fire Marshal has indicated that there is a new calculation for net tax capacity for fire contracts. Lucht to provide that information to clerk as soon as available to get contracts to townships. SCBA tanks have been priced out by the Mayor for almost half the cost but the availability is unknown. George Slama addressed the Fire Dept and City Council about a member of the Fire Dept coming to the Sportsmen's Meeting requesting a donation to go towards equipment. Slama feels there should have been at least two members of the dept present to show greater involvement from the department. He also questions why their budget is in such need if it were properly managed to avoid such short falls. He recommends that the department hold a gun fundraiser which brings in large amounts of donations.

John Mikrot, Water/Sewer Operator: Mikrot stated that he is having an issue getting a quote for the high service pump at the water tower for both the vendor and the manufacturer. Hydrant flushing was done Oct 4-5, 2022. Dehumidifier at the water tower is down so he is using spare units from other towns in the interim until he can get this one running again. Water aerator motor is not working, will be taken in for repair once he can locate an electrician that is available.

Zoning and Planning: See new business F.

Nicole Bjorklund, City Administrator: Bjorklund gave an overview of the Liquor store financials stating September 2022 had a net profit of \$29,000 with YTD profit at approximately \$96,000.

Bjorklund submitted and has received approval for a 75/25 grant from Pine County for the sealing of the well at the Victor Shafer Park. There was a physical location audit of each of the buildings owned by the City to get a better estimate of replacement value for insurance purposes. The hood modification for the bar kitchen with Summit has been cancelled and rescheduled with Brothers Fire as Summit was doing nothing with the project after having received the order to proceed six months ago. Brothers is working with their electrician to get it scheduled so they are both available.

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

Old business:

- A. Mayor Price has indicated that Noree Wicklander will be the bar manager with the resignation of Bjorklund. The pay will be determined by the committee working to determine appropriate wages for all employees going forward. Bjorklund to work with Wicklander to get her trained as bar manager.
- B. Per the previous meeting regarding the furnaces, Bjorklund obtained two quotes for a furnace for the Post Office. Cross Country Mechanical quoted \$17,625 and Willow River Geothermal quoted \$25,470. A motion was made by Hedtke to approve the quote from Cross Country Mechanical, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried.
- C. SCBA tank purchase came to no conclusion at this time. Price indicated he could get some for half the cost but that their availability was not known.

New business:

- A. Sheriff Jeff Nelson from Pine County attended the meeting to get in contact with the Council to show his presence and availability to answer questions. Sheriff Nelson answered questions related to dogs running off leash and other City issues indicating that they don't have jurisdiction to handle City violations to ordinances without a contract unless it is a criminal matter. Nelson stated that the contract is roughly \$60/hr to respond as requested but not to be staffed in the City. Nelson noted that he would like to continue to attend some meetings to give support to the City.
- B. Bjorklund noted, backed by Wicklander and Blaisdell, that there has been an increase in bar patrons urinating outside on the patio. The Council immediately indicated that this is completely uncalled for and patrons caught will be 86'd from the bar for one year on first offense. If caught upon return after one year, they will be permanently 86'd for life.
- C. Finlayson Giese Lion's Club has submitted two liquor license applications. One for November 4, 2022 and one for December 3, 2022. Motion was made by Luedtke to approve the applications, seconded by Drahosh with all in favor and carried.

- D. Wage cap for all employees: committee of council members (2) to discuss and bring information to next meeting.
- E. Employee wages: committee of council members (2) to discuss and bring information to next meeting.
- F. Attendance guidelines: committee of council members (2) to discuss and bring information to next meeting.
- G. Price stated that overtime needs to be avoided at all costs and needs to be monitored more closely. Bjorklund indicated that specifically related to the bar (backed by Wicklander) the schedule is done so that there is no overtime. However, when people are sick and only certain people are available, sometimes it is unavoidable. Blaisdell also noted that during the winter with snow plowing it can't be avoided.
- H. The cash handling procedure for the bartenders is in need of updating as it is unfair to require the employees to pay back the shortages but any overages are the property of the City. Price indicates that the procedure should be updated to reflect that the shortages do not need to be reimbursed unless deemed necessary by the council. The clerk will be reporting to the council the shortages on a monthly basis for review. Each employee will be tracked on their shortages/overages.
- I. Lois Okun resigned as the deputy clerk/office assistant and an ad ran in the paper for two weeks. There were two applicants that were interviewed by Drahosh and Bjorklund with Dawn Tasler being the recommended applicant. A motion to approve the recommendation of Tasler was made by Drahosh, seconded by Luedtke with all in favor and carried. The wages will be \$17 to start with a 90 day review.
- J. Bjorklund stated that the City Hall computer is becoming very slow and may need repair/replacement. Bjorklund to have CybertPC quote a repair or if necessary a replacement.
- K. Bjorklund informed the City Council that she will be resigning as of November 25, 2022. Bjorklund noted that it would be advised/recommended to promote (if willing and warranted) the new deputy clerk to city clerk and hire another deputy clerk to save on time. Bjorklund to discuss with Tasler on her willingness to work full-time as report to Price.
- L. 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