

**MINUTES
BUHL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
BUHL SENIOR CENTER**

Tuesday, December 1st, 2020.

6:00 p.m.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** By Mayor Klarich at 6:00 P.M.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Councilors Lehman, Markas, Kuechle and Mayor Klarich. Also, in attendance: Clerk Pervenanze via conference.
3. **TRUTH IN TAXATION (TNT) PUBLIC HEARING:** Mayor Klarich outline the 2021 proposed budget set at \$983,586 & the 2021 proposed levy set at \$385,000. The levy amount reflects a 5% increase from 2020.
4. **COUNCIL ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:** Motion by Lehman to add Christmas Lighting contest to the agenda and remove Dave Berg's presentation. Supported by Kuechle. Motion carried unanimously.

5. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Minutes:

- i. Regular Meeting November 12th, 2020.

B. Claims:

i. Payroll #24	\$ 11,041.80
ii. PR November	\$ 2,510.00
iii. A/P	\$ <u>80,484.14</u>
Total	\$ 94,035.94

Motion by Kuechle to approve the above consent agenda. Supported by Markas. Motion carried unanimously.

6. BUSINESS:

- A. Christmas/Holiday Lighting Contest. Discussion. Approve/Reject. Councilor Lehman stated that he and volunteers will be organizing the lighting contest.

Houses will be judged on December 18th. Motion by Lehman to authorize \$250 from the Rec. Dept. budget for the lighting contest. Supported by Kuechle. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. CIP Change Order #1 (Revised). Discussion. Approve/Reject. Clerk Pervenanze stated that this change order was already approved, but the amount decreased by \$2,000. The order was needed because of the old trolley car line found on State St. Motion by Klarich to approve revised change order #1 in the amount of \$13,000. Supported by Lehman. Motion carried unanimously.
- C. Resolution 20-53 (Bonding Bill). Discussion. Approve/Reject. Mayor Klarich stated that thanks to the efforts of Senator Tomassoni, our consultants Gary Cerkvenik & Jeff Anderson, and City staff Buhl was able to secure \$1,500,000 through bonding bill. This resolution authorizes the City to enter into an agreement with the State of MN to receive those funds. Motion by Markas to approve resolution 20-53. Supported by Kuechle. Motion carried unanimously.
- D. Precious Paws Agreement. Discussion. Approve/Reject. Councilor Markas would clarification on some of the language relating to care of injured animals. Motion by Klarich to table this item. Supported by Lehman. Motion carried unanimously.
- E. Old Fire Hall Doors. Discussion. Approve/Reject. Clerk Pervenanze stated that Architectural Resources is recommending the placement of support beams due to the design of the old fire hall. Mayor Klairch stated that this project will be beneficial for both Meds 1 and our Fire Dept. Motion by Keuchle to approve the quote and proposal from ARI & Griffiths Construction in the amount \$57,800. Supported by Lehman. Motion carried unanimously,

Councilor's Comments:

- Councilor Markas mentioned the proposed housing development and some options the City may have.
- Councilor Lehman stated that there is an upcoming RAMS meeting.

Mayor's Comments

I have added a new section to the city Council Agenda called Mayor's Comments. I have added this section as our Council Minutes are now posted on our website and is to be

used to clarify unfounded comments and innuendos made by individuals who are speculating about issues before the City, especially one last Saturday evening at 1:00 am in the morning. I will usually only cover one topic at a time. Due to statewide Covid restrictions in place for several months, meetings have not been taped for the safety of all individuals including our camera operator.

My first comments will be concerning the Buhl water tower. This is not a new issue and has been discussed at length by the Council for the past two years since I became Mayor and we have been diligently working on all options on this issue. We have been researching options since it became apparent that the tank would have to be repainted with the issue that it contained lead paint. This becomes very expensive as there are procedures that by law must be followed. No exception. One method is encapsulation which could carry a price tag of approximately \$275,000 Another option is repainting that would still need lead paint removal and re-painting with an approximate cost of \$200,000. Any option that involves re-painting/repairing our existing tank will also have at a minimum, bi-yearly maintenance estimated between \$15,000-\$50,000. This is why we are exploring alternative options to replace the current water tower. Other issues the Council has to deal with is the structural viability of the steel supports on which the tank rests as well as ensuring the pumps are powerful enough to maintain a steady water supply but make sure we have enough pressure to deliver water in case of an emergency such as fire. We also will need repair of the inside of the tank as well as the water reservoir below which is also being currently researched and will come with additional cost. The council is currently researching options for funding, including looking for grant money, legislative assistance, bonding, raising utility rates, and raising property taxes. Unfortunately, everything comes with a cost and we are looking to keep the costs down as much as possible to the individual taxpayers and property/business owners.

To that end Councilors John Markas and Jim Milich due to their expert knowledge of the water tank, water distribution system, and pump options have researched many options of an alternative water delivery system, upgrading the current system, and options to meet the needs of the citizens of Buhl. We have also consulted with Minnesota Rural Water to provide data and input on our future options at no cost to the City. The entire Council has had input on this matter, and we are trying to get some cost estimates to make the most cost-effective water delivery system to the City. We are all aware of the current iconic status of the existing tank stating, "BUHL Finest Water in America" and it is not lost on us. As we get more information and costs, I will inform the public through this forum.

7. **ADJOURN:** Motion by Kuechle to adjourn the meeting. Supported by Lehman. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 6:52 P.M.

John Klarich, Mayor

Ryan Pervenanze, Clerk-Treasurer