

MINUTES
BUHL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
BUHL CITY HALL
04/18/2023

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

6:30 P.M.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Mayor Carter at 6:30 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL:**

Councilors Hadrava, Kealy, Towner; Mayor Carter; Foreman Trent Pink; City Attorney Michael Kearney; Administrator Jeffries. Absent: Councilor Loeffler.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA/COUNCIL ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

Motion by Kealy to approve the agenda as presented.

Supported by Hadrava.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. **REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

Foreman Pink: discussed being presented with a trophy from the Minnesota Rural Water Association for winning the Best Tasting Water in Minnesota for 2023; this trophy will be on display at the service window in City Hall for all to see.

Discussed a new issue with municipal water well #1; the check valve is failing and needs to be replaced – need to get quotes on replacement equipment and repair. Well equipment last pulled 9 years ago; suggests replacing motor and wiring as well as the check valve; estimate is \$15,000 – \$30,000. There is a backup in case of an emergency. Proposed to put this item in the budget every 10 years.

Discussed attending the national water taste contest in February of 2024 in Washington, D.C. and the City sending a representative -

Administrator Jeffries: Announced receiving a grant from Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation (IRRR) for funding Board of Recreation desired items in the amount of \$11,084.00.

Recommended City Council authorize City Staff to remove remaining election campaign signs on both entrances to town. City attorney advised to contact individuals first -

Meeting agenda ultimately amended;

ADD Item 7.A.1: Removal of campaign signs from entrances to town.

**Motion by Kealy to approve the agenda as amended.
Supported by Towner.**

Motion carried unanimously.

5. CITIZENS FORUM:

None.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes:

- i. Regular City Council Meeting – April 4, 2023 - Approved

B. Claims:

i. Payroll #7	\$ 14,340.19
ii. A/P	\$ <u>106,360.93</u>
TOTAL	\$ <u>120,701.02</u>

**Motion by Hadrava to approve the consent agenda.
Supported by Towner.**

Motion carried unanimously.

7. BUSINESS:

- A. LMC Annual Conference – Authorization to Attend.

**Motion by Towner to authorize the Administrator to attend the League of Minnesota Cities 2023 Annual Conference on the City's behalf.
Supported by Kealy.**

Further discussion regarding authorizing council members to attend this conference.

Discussion. Approve/Reject.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Motion by Towner to authorize interested City Council members to attend the League of Minnesota Cities 2023 Annual Conference on the City's behalf, and to notify the Administrator of this interest prior to April 28.
Supported by Kealy.**

Discussion. Approve/Reject.

Council members who are interested will contact the Administrator.

Motion carried unanimously.

A.1 Directing City Staff to Remove Campaign Signs.

Motion by Hadrava to direct City staff to contact individuals identified on existing campaign signs to remove said signs, and to direct City staff to remove said signs should this not occur.

Supported by Kealy.

Discussion. Approve/Reject.

Administrator will contact these individuals to make arrangements giving them two weeks prior to City staff removing these signs and placing them into storage.

B. Letter Of Agreement for Department of Public Transformation.

This project is to receive \$25,000 over a 2-year span to participate in the initiative.

Primary Contact for this project will be Councilor Loeffler; the Project Representative will be the Administrator.

Mayor should also be added as a signatory to this Agreement for execution.

Motion by Kealy to authorize the City Administrator and the Mayor to execute the Letter of Agreement with the Department of Public Transformation for the 2023 Activate Rural Learning Lab City of Buhl Project.

Supported by Towner.

Discussion. Approve/Reject.

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Permit to Conduct Display of Fireworks for J & M Displays.

Informational only.

The 2023 fireworks display will take place on July 1st at 10:00 p.m. behind the Buhl Curling Club.

A Display of Fireworks permit application has been received from the vendor, and had been found to be in order. Appropriate proof of insurance requirements have been met, and the permit application will be executed by the Fire Chief, the Police Chief, and the City Administrator.

D. Draft Ordinance Relating to the Regulation of Lawful Gambling.

Informational only.

City staff has recommended adopting an ordinance to cover lawful gambling activities that occur or will occur in the city, and distributed two draft ordinance alternatives for City Council consideration.

Council members will provide comments to the Administrator regarding the development and further consideration of this ordinance; the item will be discussed further in upcoming meetings.

E. Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Hearing April 25.

Informational only.

The St. Louis County Assessor has now issued 2024 Valuation and Classification Notices to all property owners. This establishes Taxable Market Values for property tax assessments payable in 2024.

Property owners are allowed to appeal or question their classification and/or valuation for a prescribed period of time.

The city Local Board of Appeal and Equalization (LBAE) will hold an Open Book session jointly with representatives of the St. Louis County Assessor's office on **April 25 at 10:00 a.m. at the Buhl Senior Center**, located at 302 Frantz Street. Property owners may discuss or appeal their value and/or classification at this open book session.

The Board will vote on any changes recommended to valuations and/or classifications.

The City does not have an active role in establishing these valuations; this is at the purview of St. Louis County.

All residents who are affected are encouraged to attend this hearing.

Administrator stressed that one must appear at the LBAE (local level) in order to be eligible to appear at county level hearings.

F. Annual Spring Clean Up/Sign Up Program.

Informational only.

This event is scheduled for June 12-15, 2023. Residents must contact City Hall and be placed on a list to have ANY items picked up. Items which have a pick-up charge MUST be paid for at City Hall by 4:00 p.m. June 9 or they WILL NOT be picked up.

A flyer has been placed in four (4) locations around the City (City Hall, Post Office, Library, and Senior Center).

Dumpster rental availability was also highlighted – this too will be posted and publicized at 4 locations around the city.

G. St. Louis County Household Hazardous Waste Community Collection Events.

Informational only.

Information related to these events will be posted at 4 locations throughout the city and will be available for public consumption. Collection events for Very Small Quantity Generator (VSQG) businesses are scheduled for July 12 in Hibbing and August 16 in Virginia.

Administrator highlighted that this VSQG offering is quite favorable for businesses.

H. Julia Joyal vs. City of Buhl Conciliation Court Hearing.

Informational only.

This hearing, which is in regard to alleged damage to personal property related to flooding events which occurred in May/June 2022, is scheduled for April 26, 2023.

I. Lands Held by the City of Buhl.

Informational only.

Staff has compiled a listing of land and property owned and held by the City.

The total current estimated market value of these properties as listed by the St. Louis County Assessor is \$2,216,200.

A listing was distributed to the City Council; a map is being prepared which will graphically depict these properties, as well.

J. Councilor's Comments.

Councilor Hadrava – Congratulations to Foreman Pink for his part in the Best Tasting Water in Minnesota award


Councilor Kealy – Urged residents to go to the LBAE hearing; Reminded residents about Clean-Up Week and the availability of 300-gallon containers year-round; Highlighted monthly dinner at the Senior Center on Thursday, April 20 (meat loaf); and Offered congratulations to Foreman Pink

K. Mayor's Comments.

Congratulations to Foreman Pink; Urged all residents to come to LBAE hearing.

8. ADJOURN:

Motion by Kealy to adjourn. Supported by Hadrava. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.



Brandin Carter, Mayor

ATTEST:


Tony Jeffries, City Clerk