

MINUTES
BUHL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
BUHL CITY HALL
02/21/2023

Tuesday, February 21, 2023

6:30 P.M.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Mayor Carter at 6:30 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Councilors Loeffler, Kealy, Towner, Hadrava, Mayor Carter, Attorney Kearney, Foremen Pink, Fire Chief Lehman and Finance Manager Thronson.
3. **REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS:** Foreman Pink stated that a bracket on the plow of the sanding truck broke but they are repairing it otherwise everything is running fine. Fire Chief Lehman stated that residents should call 911 when there is an outage and that dispatch will then call the proper individuals, fire department, etc. He stated that everything is running good, they are doing their monthly checks on the equipment and had to replace a battery on the rescue truck. Mayor Carter asked how many members the department currently has. Chief Lehman stated they have 13 members and that he and Ass't Chief Durbahn are talking to a few individuals about joining. They must have 13 members to maintain a department and a full roster would be 22 members.
4. **CITIZENS FORUM:** Gary Ross talked about the car wash property and that he would like to see it rezoned residential instead of commercial. Attorney Kearney stated that with a commercial building currently on the property it wouldn't be able to be rezoned. He stated the first step would be to tear down the building then request it to be rezoned. Gary also stated that he would like the city to reduce the base fees for water and sewer as he is not using those utilities. It was stated that any commercial or residential owner that is connected to the mains must pay the base fees. Gary Ross also requested that the snow that is piled on the property from the City be removed so that he can get in there and start tearing down the building. Foreman Pink said that they can start removing the snow.
5. **COUNCIL ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:** Elected Leaders online course. Motion by Towner to add the Elected Leaders online course as Item A1. Supported by Loeffler. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Minutes:

- i. Regular City Council Meeting- February 7, 2023

B. Claims:

- i. Payroll #3 \$ 11,114.93
- ii. A/P \$ 84,789.25

TOTAL \$ **95,904.18**

Motion by Towner to approve the consent agenda. Supported by Kealy. Motion carried unanimously.

7. BUSINESS:

- A. **Essentia Ambulance Service.** Brian Olds, EMS Supervisor of the Buhl and Deer River locations discussed the ambulance service. Since Essentia took over the ambulance service in April of 2022 their goal was to upgrade to part-time ALS service. (Advanced Life Support). On February 16, 2023, that was approved by the EMSRB. The next steps are to hire paramedics for the ALS service. They would like to hire 6-7 paramedics. They are currently fully staffed for 24/7 coverage and 1 truck to provide the BLS service (Basic Life Support). Since April 2022 they have been on 233 calls of which 187 of those were transported to a hospital.

- A1. **Elected Leaders online course.** Discussion. Approve/Reject. Motion by Towner to approve any councilor/mayor to take the Elected Leader Foundation course. Supported by Kealy. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. **Correspondence from Resident.** Attorney Kearney addressed the letter and stated it was very informative and had good information. He stated it is a violation of the open meeting law if 3 or more council members discuss business. If member A talks to member B and then member B talks to member C and member C then talks to member A that is a violation of the open meeting law. He stated that the only gap he saw was that there should have been a motion by the council to direct the Personnel Committee to come up with questions for the candidate interviews. He also stated that it is good for the elected officials to take the Elected Leadership course offered through the League of MN Cities.

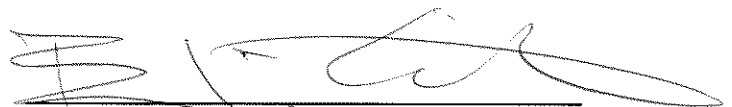
- C. **Library Board Resignation.** Discussion. Approve/Reject. Motion by Kealy to accept Shari Swanson's resignation from the Library Board. Supported by Hadrava. Motion carried unanimously.

- D. **Library Board Appointment.** Discussion. Approve/Reject. Motion by Loeffler to appoint Kristian Conger to the Library Board. Supported by Towner. Motion carried unanimously.

- E. **City Credit Cards.** Discussion. Approve/Reject. Motion by Kealy to authorize Dianna Thronson to make name changes and/or cancellations to the city credit cards. Supported by Hadrava. Motion carried unanimously.

- F. **Outage Policy.** Discussion. Approve/Reject. Motion by Hadrava to approve the Utility Outage Policy. Supported by Towner. Motion carried unanimously. For utility outages (water/electric) residents should call 911 and the Chisholm Police Department will contact the proper individuals/company.

- G. Temporary Shelter Agreement. Discussion. Approve/Reject. Motion by Towner to approve the Emergency Services Mutual Aid Agreement for Temporary Shelter with Cornerstone Villa. Supported by Kealy. Motion carried unanimously. In the event of an emergency requiring Cornerstone to evacuate they would take temporary shelter at the Buhl Kinney Senior Center.
- H. All Class Reunion Request. Discussion. Approve/Reject. Motion by Towner to approve blocking off State Street from the middle of the 200 block through the 100 block including the State St./Jones Ave. intersection. Supported by Hadrava. Motion carried unanimously. The above locations will be blocked off from Thursday, June 29th to the morning of Sunday, July 2nd. Motion by Towner to approve the city paying for extra police protection, porta potties and garbage receptacles. Expenses not to exceed \$2,500. Supported by Loeffler. Motion carried unanimously.
- I. Employment Agreement Negotiations (Closed Session). Motion by Kealy to close the open session. Supported by Towner. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Kealy to open the closed session. Supported by Hadrava. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Kealy to close the closed session. Supported by Loeffler. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Towner to re-open the open session. Supported by Hadrava. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Towner to direct the Personnel Committee to make changes to the employment agreement and bring it back to council. Supported by Kealy. Motion carried unanimously.
- J. Councilor's Comments. Councilors Hadrava and Loeffler thanked the Rec. Board for putting on the Winter Frolic. Councilor Towner stated that the rink attendants did a great job and thanked the volunteers. Councilor Kealy stated the Curling Club is getting ready for the bonspiel and they had a little issue with the water melting off the road and going onto sheet 1. Councilor Towner also stated that there is an opening on the Rec. Board.
- K. Mayor's Comments. Mayor Carter thanked all the volunteers serving on the various boards.
8. **ADJOURN:** Motion by Kealy to adjourn. Supported by Hadrava. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.



Brandin Carter, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tony Jeffries, City Clerk