

MINUTES
BUHL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
BUHL CITY HALL
3/19/2024

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

6:30 P.M.

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

2. ROLL CALL:

Councilors: X Hadrava X Kealy X Loeffler X Towner
Mayor: X Carter

Administrator: X Jeffries
Public Works Foreman: X Pink
Attorney: X Kearney
Engineer: X Jamnick
Police Chief: X Manner

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA/COUNCIL ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

None.

Motion by Towner to approve the agenda as presented.

Supported by Kealy.

Discussion. Approve/Reject/Table.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Trent Pink – Public Works Foreman:

Gave a summary report of the national drinking water taste test sponsored by the National Rural Water Association conference in Washington, D.C. in early March 2024; the City of Buhl was the State of Minnesota's representative entrant in this competition;

Minnesota 8th District Congressman Pete Stauber was the keynote speaker for this event, and without knowing Buhl was an entrant for this award, mentioned Buhl in his keynote address -

The winner was the state of Wisconsin (Columbus, WI).

Gave an update on Buhl's efforts to comply with the lead and copper (water supply piping) inventory, which is due by October 16, 2024.

Urged residents to take pictures of their water supply piping and send them to City Hall;

Noted and apologized for some reddish-tinted water which occurred after some aggressive hydrant flushing;

Have been working on Stubler Pit docks and city-wide recreation equipment installation;

Have been working on the alleys – it will be a cyclical effort since additional freeze/thaw events are anticipated.

Vernon Manner – Police Chief:

Noted that the City of Chisholm Public Safety Facility (police, fire, and EMS), which is under construction, is ahead of schedule, will be completed around Memorial Day, and the Department may be able to move-in by the end of June;

Noted that the police force is now fully staffed, however 3-4 officers are still in school until early summer 2024;

Noted that the (police) Department is a very young department, with the majority of staff having ~5 years of experience or less.

Administrator Jeffries:

Offered CONGRATULATIONS! to the Mountain Iron-Buhl High School girls' basketball team, who followed up last year's Class 1A State Championship with the 2024 Class 1A Runner-Up title;

Clarified that Congressionally-Directed Spending funding, which has referenced a \$3 million award to Buhl, and which had recently been made public by the press, has not yet been fully executed by Congress and the President, so this funding is not yet finalized;

Noted the community Easter Egg Hunt to be held on March 30, 2024 at 1:00 at Burton Park;

Noted that the Buhl Knights of Columbus will sponsor Ham Bingo on Saturday, March 23rd at 7:00 p.m.

6. CITIZENS FORUM:

None.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes:

- i. Regular City Council Meeting – March 4, 2024

B. Claims:

i. Payroll #5 \$ 15,425.34

ii. A/P \$ 83,179.11

TOTAL \$ 98,604.45

Motion by Towner to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Supported by Kealy.

Discussion. Approve/Reject/Table.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. BUSINESS:

- A. Presentation from Norm Miranda, Executive Director of CIRSSD (Central Iron Range Sanitary Sewer District), on Buhl's impact on the CIRSSD Wastewater Treatment facility located in Balkan Township.

Norm Miranda, Executive Director of the Central Iron Range Sanitary Sewer District, gave a presentation on the CIRSSD and Buhl's impact on the CIRSSD.

Mr. Miranda gave a historical summary of the CIRSSD facility, and Buhl's impact on this facility, which began operation in December of 2013; and subsequently:

Highlighted the impact of infiltration and inflow (I&I) events, especially as it relates to Buhl, and encouraged the City to undertake a concerted plan for

attempting to identify and reduce the impact and extent of the I&I contribution as it is presently monitored by CIRSSD;
Noted that I&I issues are common in most all wastewater treatment systems throughout the country and the world;

Highlighted a number of frequent causes of I&I;

Highlighted select rain events and (Buhl) flowrate impacts to CIRSSD in the last few years;

Summarized some consequences of excess I&I, both in the near as well as long-term;

Noted that additional flow(s) to CIRSSD need to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine potential capacity issues as a result of any new flows;

Highlighted that a reduction in I&I may likely result in some cost savings to the City, as total flow to CIRSSD would be reduced;

Noted that the capacity of the CIRSSD treatment plant is not the issue; it is getting the wastewater to the treatment facility that is the issue;

Identified elements of an I&I investigation program which may be considered for (further) study;

Reminded all that the overall condition of sewers is that they deteriorate – and do not ever improve on their own;

Addressed comments and questions related to potential restrictions on municipal growth as a result of the current instantaneous peak flow events impacts as presently identified by CIRSSD; and

Encouraged the City to look at all options, take advantage of the support available from CIRSSD, and look to outside agencies for potential funding sources to help finance this recommended improvement program.

This information and presentation will be made available on the City's website.

Mayor Carter commented that any I&I impacts which may be due to residential drain tile connections into the sanitary sewer system do not have any immediate "fixes" available, but rather that would take a considerable amount of time (years) to rectify; Mr. Miranda agreed –

Inquired as to whether the capacity of Buhl's existing (main) lift station would rectify the issue; Mr. Miranda reminded all that the issue is an instantaneous peak flow impact, and not an overall capacity impact.

Comment and discussion ensued regarding whether the aggregate I&I impact has increased since the Citywide CIP project, rather than been reduced – It was concluded that the City will actively move toward developing an I&I investigation program (continuing) immediately, with select initiatives to be undertaken in the spring and summer of 2024.

Informational only.

B. Presentation on Water Storage Tank Condition Assessment Report and Potential Refurbishment Alternatives; USG Water Solutions.

A representative from USG presented the condition assessment report that was originally presented at the January 2, 2024 council meeting.

(The video of the 1/2/24 council meeting had technical issues and is not viewable).

Jim Olson, senior water systems consultant for USG Water Solutions, re-presented USG's summary conclusions of the condition of the existing elevated water storage tank in the city, and USG's findings regarding replacement or refurbishment of this facility.

Please refer to the minutes of the January 2, 2024 City Council meeting for additional information and findings related to this item.

This presentation is available on the City's website.

Informational only.

C. Consider Mayoral Proclamation Designating April 2024 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

The Sexual Assault Program of Northern St. Louis County requested discussing and adopting a Mayor's Proclamation recognizing April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Recommendation is to adopt a Mayor's Proclamation recognizing April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Motion by Kealy to adopt the Sexual Assault Program of NSLC Mayor's Proclamation recognizing April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Supported by Loeffler.

Discussion. Approve/Reject/Table.

It was noted that, in instances like this, people are generally hesitant or unwilling to speak about these issues, which leads to a reduced awareness as to the extent of the issue or problem -

Motion carried unanimously.

D. St. Louis County Local Board of Appeal and Equalization (LBAE) Meeting of April 23, 2024.

St. Louis County has scheduled Buhl's LBAE meeting for Tuesday, April 23rd from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Buhl Kinney Senior Center.

A quorum of City Councilors is required at this meeting.

Recommendation is to approve holding this LBAE meeting at the above time and place.

Motion by Kealy to approve holding the 2024 LBAE meeting for the City of Buhl on April 23rd beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Buhl-Kinney Senior Center.

Supported by Towner.

Discussion. Approve/Reject/Table.

Motion carried unanimously.

E. Plan Spring Cleanup for 2024.

The City annually sponsors a Spring Cleanup program, and encourages all residents to participate and take advantage of this opportunity to assist in City beautification efforts.

A draft of the recommended dates and fee schedule for the annual Spring Cleanup was distributed.

Public Works foreman Trent Pink has stated that these dates will work for the city public works crew.

As a reminder, anyone who would like items picked up, whether it be a paid item or a free of charge item, must contact City Hall to be placed on the list.

Recommendation is to approve the annual 2024 Spring Cleanup dates of June 10-13 and its associated fee schedule.

Motion by Hadrava to authorize the City to offer the 2024 Spring Cleanup program from June 10th through 13th, to approve and adopt its associated fee schedule, and to encourage all residents to take advantage of this opportunity to participate in City beautification efforts.

Supported by Loeffler.

Discussion. Approve/Reject/Table.

This item will be posted in the usual locations and placed on the City website in the near future.

Motion carried unanimously.

F. Other Business.

1) Paul Bunyan Communications:

Steve Howard, Information Technology Development Manager for Paul Bunyan Communications, headquartered in Bemidji, MN, announced their intention to install infrastructure for fiber optic broadband service throughout the city in the summer/fall of 2024.

Mr. Howard brought forward five (5) items:

- 1) Permission to develop in Buhl;
- 2) Symmetric capacities of their planned system;
- 3) Location of a required building/equipment cabinet for support equipment (Paul Bunyan looking for some land for this);
- 4) A request to help get the word out and promote the services coming to Buhl in the near future to the general public; and
- 5) Highlighting that Paul Bunyan Communications is a not-for-profit organization who is and will be interested and involved in economic development in the City of Buhl.

Mr. Howard distributed a map of the scope of the project;

Clarified that, at present, Whiteside Road and Whiteside Industrial Park IS NOT included in this buildout;

Highlighted and summarized the existing technical service capacities of Paul Bunyan's system(s);

Noted that all services are un-capped (from a data capacity perspective); and

Noted that the company is a cooperative which allows them to return investment to their members.

Questions were fielded regarding some specifics of Paul Bunyan's services and forthcoming plans.

2) Cheryl Kivi:

Presented backup documentation regarding the prior approval (by the City) for the paving of Klinx Way, which may have been removed from currently proposed project activities and should be re-placed on the project(s) scope –

Mentioned other construction project elements and the identified funding sources for these activities -

The City had recently agreed that this should be placed back on the present project(s) scope, and it is scheduled to be completed this spring/summer -

G. Councilor's Comments.

Councilor Towner –

Noted the community Easter Egg Hunt (March 30 at 1:00 p.m. at Burton Park) and the Knights of Columbus Ham Bingo (March 23 at 7:00 p.m. at the Buhl-Kinney Senior Center) –

Proclaimed his excitement about the Easter activities as well as Paul Bunyan Communication's plans to service the city.

Councilor Loeffler –

Noted that there will be a (free) community event on Saturday, April 7 – a gardening seminar and workshop – at the Curling Club – further information and sign/up is available at www.buhlteencenter.com.

Councilor Hadrava –

Encouraged everyone to clean up their yard(s), BUT DO NOT burn anything – it is VERY dry out there at present –

Inquired as to clarification on whether there is an ordinance on recreational fires – there is a current ordinance administering these event(s) –

H. Mayor's Comments.

Thanked all for being at this meeting and becoming engaged in the initiatives of the City -

THIS IS A GREAT EXAMPLE OF HOW THE COMMUNITY WORKS WELL TOGETHER!

9. ADJOURN:

Motion by Kealy to adjourn.

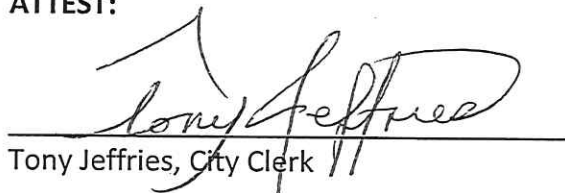
Supported by Loeffler.

Motion carried Unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.



Brandin Carter, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tony Jeffries, City Clerk