

**MINUTES**  
**BUHL CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**3/4/2025**

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

6:30 P.M.

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

2. **ROLL CALL:**

Councilors:      X   Kealy        X   Loeffler      X   Teska-Erickson      X   Towner  
Mayor:           X   Matthews

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

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

**Motion by Teska-Erickson to approve the agenda as presented.**

**Supported by Towner.**

Discussion. Approve/Reject/Table.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

4. **REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

**City Engineer John Jamnick:**

Deferred comments to individual agenda items, as appropriate -

**Administrator Jeffries:**

1. Noted that at the April 1, 2025 City Council meeting, staff from the State of Minnesota Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation

(IRRR) will be in attendance and present to the City an overview of the Agency and its current programs and other agency initiatives -

2. Indicated that the mold remediation project at the EMS Hall has been completed and came in under the approved remediation amount –

Noted that some additional is appropriate to determine and abate moisture weeping into the basement area(s) from breaches in the foundation wall(s); this can be managed by City staff -

## 5. CITIZENS FORUM:

**Susan Trunk; 109 Culver Avenue, Buhl, Mn 55713.**

Ms. Trunk, a commissioner on the Buhl Economic Development Authority (BEDA), spoke on behalf of her concerns regarding BEDA, and provided comment urging the City Council to assist in getting BEDA back on track, noting that a lack of recent quorum(s) have led to an interruption of the regular BEDA meeting schedule and that BEDA business was not able to be conducted as a result –

Ms. Trunk also commented she was hoping to provide some transparency regarding recent (BEDA) events –

Additional comment was received requesting that the mayor be replaced with another (City) Council member on BEDA –

Ms. Trunk publicly asked the mayor and the (City) Council to follow the law, statutes, and procedures that have been put into place to get the City back on track in a transparent and ethical way -

## 6. CONSENT AGENDA

### A. Minutes:

- i. Special City Council Meeting – February 11, 2025
- ii. Regular City Council Meeting – February 18, 2025

### B. Claims:

i. Payroll #4	\$ 15,860.07
Payroll 2 (February 2025)	\$ 2,425.00
ii. A/P	\$ 34,557.94
iii. BEDA A/P	<u>\$ 5,079.44</u>

**TOTAL \$ 57,922.45**

**Motion by Towner to approve the consent agenda as presented.**

**Supported by Kealy.**

Discussion. Approve/Reject/Table.

Brief discussion regarding clarification of the invoiced charges received from ServiceMaster by Moline for the mold remediation project at the EMS Hall ensued – the Administrator indicated that the invoiced charges for the project were ultimately lower than anticipated due to the actual work scope, and the received invoicing represented the full (not partial) charges for the project.

Councilor Towner asked whether or not the City Council was able to approve the payment of current BEDA accounts payable invoices; the Administrator indicated that there appears to be no issue with this -

**Motion carried unanimously.**

## **7. BUSINESS:**

- A. Presentation of 2024 Utility Rate Study Findings from David Berg, P.E., of Dave Berg Consulting, LLC.

The City is the administrator of the delivery of utility services to its residents. Specifically, the City provides for and administers water, sanitary sewer, refuse collection and disposal, and electric utility services.

These services are all operated as independent enterprise funds, separate from and not included in the City operations or general budget, and not affected nor impacted by the City's annual property tax levy.

By design, these enterprise funds should be operated so that the costs of providing these services are fully covered by the revenues collected for each of these services, on a fund-specific basis. In other words, each of these utility services should have rate structures which allow the City to provide all of these services and operate each of these funds without impact on the City's general operating budget.

The City approved Dave Berg Consulting, LLC to conduct an updated rate study on October 15, 2024, which is intended to provide recommendations for action and rate structures proposed and designed to be effective until the end of 2030.

This rate study has been completed, and David Berg, P.E., of Dave Berg Consulting, LLC, was in attendance virtually and presented these findings for approval.

**Recommendation is that the city approve the findings of the Dave Berg Consulting, LLC updated utility rate study to cover the years of 2025-2030.**

**Motion by Kealy to accept and approve the findings of the Dave Berg Consulting, LLC updated utility rate study for the City of Buhl, in order to review and/or re-establish utility rates consistent with those required to allow each utility enterprise fund to operate in a revenue-neutral or better business position, for the operating period of 2025-2030.**

**Supported by Teska-Erickson.**

Discussion. Approve/Reject/Table.

Preliminary rate adjustments have been recommended at less than 3% per year for the duration of 2025 – 2029; a specific rates adjustment proposal is anticipated to be on the City Council meeting agenda for consideration on March 18, 2025.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**B. Consider Approval of Labor Agreement with AFSCME Council 65 Local No. 453-2.**

The City enjoys an employment arrangement with the personnel in its Public Works Department through an existing Labor Agreement with AFSCME Council 65 Local No. 435-2.

The most recent iteration of this agreement sunsetted on December 31, 2024; the next iteration has a term of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027.

The City Personnel Committee had met for the last several months with the bargaining unit to discuss and negotiate the terms of the renewed agreement.

These negotiations were culminated on December 30, 2024, and accepted by City personnel.

The updated Agreement has been completed and needs to be approved/ratified by the City Council.

This Agreement adjusts the wages for Public Works Department personnel upwards 5% in 2025, and 4% in each successive year thereafter.

Additional negotiated items are noted in the red-lined language of the updated agreement.

**Recommendation is for the City to accept and approve this updated Labor Agreement.**

**Motion by Teska-Erickson for the City to accept and approve the Labor Agreement between the City of Buhl and AFSCME Council 65 Local No. 435-2 for the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027, for those bargaining unit personnel engaged in activities related to the City of Buhl Public Works Department.**

**Supported by Towner.**

Discussion. Approve/Reject/Table.

It was noted that provisions effecting this agreement will be retroactive to January 1, 2025.

Miscellaneous discussion related to the language regarding holidays and potential future treatment of ESST (Earned Safe and Sick Time) ensued -

Minor language clarifications and consistency will be pursued by City staff.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**C. Consider Approval of Water Tower Engineering Design and Construction Management Contract with JPJ Engineering, Inc.**

As a result of the City's initiatives of studying, considering, and evaluating potential work scopes and alternatives for the City's Water Tower improvement project throughout 2024, the City, on November 25, 2024, authorized the City Engineer to undertake design initiatives and prepare specifications and bid solicitations in order to obtain quotes for construction of a new 200,000 gallon four-legged elevated water storage tank and tower, with other designs acceptable as alternatives in addition to the specified design.

Subsequent to this action, JPJ Engineering, Inc., the City Engineer, has submitted a proposal for engineering services related to this project.

The Scope of Services of this proposal includes 1) Project Management; 2) a Topographic Boundary Survey; 3) Engineering Plans & Documents; 4) Meetings; 5) Bidding; and 6) Construction Management.

An agreement for these services is reasonable and expected in order to administrate these professional services throughout this project; JPJ Engineering, Inc. has submitted a draft agreement for the City's consideration.

**Recommendation is for the City to accept and approve this proposal and subsequent agreement.**

**Motion by Kealy for the City to accept and approve the proposal of JPJ Engineering, Inc., for the engineering design and construction management for the water tower replacement project, to enter into an agreement for said services, and to direct JPJ Engineering, Inc. to perform these services, in an amount consistent with that enumerated in the JPJ Engineering, Inc. *Preliminary Opinion of Probable Construction Cost*.**

**Supported by Loeffler.**

Discussion. Approve/Reject/Table.

City Engineer John Jamnick of JPJ Engineering, Inc. reported that preliminary geotechnical activities (soil boring – to assess the soils for suitability and subsurface soil bearing capacity) was underway at the proposed new water tower site and would likely be completed before the end of the week –

**Motion carried unanimously.**

- D. Consider Approval of JPJ Engineering, Inc. Invoice No. 1 for the Water Storage Improvements Project No. 09-061 in the Amount of \$11,920.00.

The City has been invoiced for professional engineering services and other professional activities performed by JPJ Engineering, Inc., for services related to the Water Storage Improvements project (JPJ Project No. 09-061).

This invoice is related to services rendered for the Invoice Period of July 2024 thru January 2025, and includes services related to the above-referenced project.

Specifically, these charges are identified as Topographic Survey and (engineering) Design for services performed and remitted by JPJ Engineering, Inc., in the amount of \$ 11,920.00.

**Recommendation is to remit to JPJ Engineering, Inc. invoice No. 1 for professional services related to Project No. 09-061 in the amount of \$ 11,920.00 upon validation of the services performed.**

**Motion by Towner to approve payment of Invoice No. 1 for Project No. 09-061 to JPJ Engineering, Inc., in the amount of \$ 11,920.00.**

**Supported by Teska-Erickson.**

Discussion. Approve/Reject/Table.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

- E. Consider Approval of JPJ Engineering, Inc. Invoice No. 4 for the Buhl Business Block Development Initiatives Project No. 23-207 in the Amount of \$15,120.00.

The City has been invoiced for professional engineering services and other professional activities performed by JPJ Engineering, Inc., for services related to the Buhl Business Park (Block) project (JPJ Project No. 23-207).

This invoice is related to services rendered for the Invoice Period of October 2024 thru January 2025, and includes services related to the above-referenced project.

Specifically, these charges are identified as Engineering Design for services remitted by JPJ Engineering, Inc., in the amount of \$ 15,120.00.

**Recommendation is to remit to JPJ Engineering, Inc. invoice No. 4 for professional services related to Project No. 23-207 in the amount of \$ 15,120.00 upon validation of the services performed.**

**Motion by Kealy to approve payment of Invoice No. 4 for Project No. 23-207 to JPJ Engineering, Inc., in the amount of \$ 15,120.00.**

**Supported by Towner.**

Discussion. Approve/Reject/Table.

Mayor Matthews commented that there is a distinct possibility that many residents may not have been aware of these activities, as it a BEDA-related initiative – and only briefly discussed by the City Council in the past -

Comment received from a resident regarding where are the funds being sourced from – it is anticipated that these activities are eligible through the Congressionally Directed Spending (USDA RD grant) funding allocated to the City in 2024.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

- F. Consider Approval of Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association (MMUA) 2025 Regular Member Dues.

The Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association (MMUA) was formed in 1931, and is a nonprofit corporation representing the interests of municipal utilities, providing a wide variety of services to its members, several of them on the iron range.

The MMUA represents the interests of Minnesota's ~125 municipal electric utilities. Their mission is to unify, support and serve these utilities so they can in turn improve service to their customers and communities.

The City, as a municipal utility, is a long-standing member of this organization, as it maintains control of municipal electric services to its residents and businesses.

The MMUA has assisted its members in negotiating and securing power purchase rates from electric power producers, including investor-owned utilities (e.g. Minnesota Power).

Please note that membership dues for 2025 have been set at \$ 1,411.00, down from \$ 1,413.00 in 2024.

**Recommendation is to approve membership in MMUA for 2025.**

**Motion by Teska-Erickson to approve membership in the Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association (MMUA) for 2025 in the amount of \$1,411.00.**

**Supported by Loeffler.**

Discussion. Approve/Reject/Table.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

G. Consider Approving Final 5-Year Extension Proposal with WM Wisconsin Minnesota for Municipal Refuse Collection and Management Services.

The City of Buhl receives refuse collection and disposal services through an Agreement with WM of Wisconsin Minnesota, formerly Waste Management, with a term commencing January 1, 2025 and expiring December 31, 2029.

WM of Wisconsin Minnesota provided a 5-Year Extension Proposal for the City's previous refuse collection and management services for consideration, with a new term beginning January 1, 2025 and expiring on December 31, 2029.

This agreement extension was approved by the City on December 3, 2024.

Certain specific details, including what is to be considered as "donated" services by WM Wisconsin Minnesota, were continued to be discussed; these specific details have now been finalized and are presented to the City Council for consideration and approval.

**Recommendation is to approve these specific details of this agreement extension.**

**Motion by Kealy to approve the specifics details contained in the City of Buhl, 5-Year Extension Proposal for refuse collection and management services for the City of Buhl received from WM of Wisconsin Minnesota, for the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2029, and to make these specific details effective upon execution of this motion.**



**Supported by Towner.**

Discussion. Approve/Reject/Table.

Councilor Teska-Erickson commented on some frustration she had become aware of from a local business owner – this is related to historically previous treatment of some commercial establishments and how those accounts have been (historically) managed (potentially back to 2004) – this is part of what has been clarified in the new agreement extension –

It was noted that the City Council was surprised when this information came to light in December 2024 –

Councilor Kealy clarified that the City of Buhl had not picked up any fees for any businesses related to those businesses' refuse collection services during that period of time –

**Motion carried unanimously.**

H. Consider Participating in and Establishing a Qualifying Account in the B2 Bank Demand Deposit Marketplace (DDM) Program.

The City designates those financial institutions which serve as depositories of funds, and acceptors of collateral, on an annual basis.

The City has designated B2 Bank of Buhl (formerly First National Bank of Buhl), along with other strategic financial entities, as the official depositories and acceptors of Assignments of Collateral for the City for calendar year 2025.

B2 Bank recently approached and presented information to the City regarding its new Demand Deposit Marketplace (DDM) and ELEVATE Savings programs.

These programs effectively “allocate” deposited funds into multiple deposit-insured receiving institutions, which allow B2 Bank to offer several advantages to its (and the City's) current programs, including:

- Increased FDIC deposit insurance coverage than presently realized;
- Unrestricted liquidity of deposited funds;
- Noticeably increased interest rates on deposited funds than currently realized;
- Continued management of deposit account(s) through B2 Bank solely; and
- Continued opt-out of the program at any time.

Staff has researched these programs and has not identified any downside to the City, with the exception of the need to open an additional account and have an additional login, which has not been identified as problematic in any way.

**Recommendation is for the City to enter into these B2 Bank programs.**

**Motion by Kealy for the City to participate in the B2 Bank Demand Deposit Marketplace (DDM) and ELEVATE Savings programs, and to monitor and evaluate the performance of these programs on an ongoing basis.**

**Supported by Loeffler.**

Discussion. Approve/Reject/Table.

B2 Bank was thanked for the presentation they made to the City Council on February 24, 2025 –

Discussion regarding the level of investment the City will make to this program and who would be deciding this – the Administrator suggested that B2 Bank is appropriate to take the lead on determining this –

The Administrator commented that there has been no downside identified with this program and suggested that the City Council take an aggressive posture regarding the level of investment in the program in order to take advantage of more favorable interest rates provided under this program -

**Motion carried unanimously.**

- I. Consider Amending City of Buhl Ordinance §31.04 Regarding the Makeup of the Buhl Economic Development Authority (BEDA).

This item is a continuation of recent discussions of the City Council.

Sections § 31.01 through § 31.05 of the Buhl, Minnesota, Code of Ordinances sets forth certain provisions guiding the establishment and operation of the Buhl Economic Development Authority (BEDA).

Included in Section § 31.04 is the overall makeup of BEDA, as well as the terms and appointments authorized therein.

The current ordinance calls for a 7-commissioner (BEDA) board, with three (3) of these commissioners being members of the City Council.

A consideration has been initiated to review these provisions, and to potentially alter the current 3-commissioner City Council requirement.

A recent legal opinion indicates this consideration is potentially allowable.

In order to alter these provisions, an amendment to Section § 31.04 would be necessary.

**Recommendation is for the staff to City to begin the process of amending this ordinance, in conformance with the findings of the recent legal opinion and the direction of the City Council.**

**Motion by Teska-Erickson to direct the Administrator to begin the process of amending the City of Buhl Code of Ordinances Section § 31.04 requiring that two (2) commissioners of the Buhl Economic Development Authority (BEDA) be members of the City Council.**

**Supported by Towner.**

Discussion. Approve/Reject/Table.

Considerable discussion regarding the history of the composition of BEDA (and amendments and/or alterations to it) based upon what is presently understood and back to 1998 ensued -

Question raised of where may the by-laws of the organization fit into this – the Administrator explained that an ordinance amendment will be a City Council action, however amendments or alterations to the By-Laws can be taken by the BEDA board –

To facilitate this process, it was suggested that the City Council appoint two (2) individuals to the BEDA board (one being a City Council member), which would fulfill the presently-required complement of BEDA, and subsequently, after BEDA amends its by-laws, re-visit the number of City Council members on BEDA and adjust accordingly –

It was suggested to revisit the compensation language and provisions for serving on BEDA as well – in order to do this the original motion needs to be rescinded and restated –

**Motion on the table (by Teska-Erickson; supported by Towner) rescinded.**

**Motion by Kealy to direct the Administrator to begin the process of amending the City of Buhl Code of Ordinances Section § 31.04 requiring that two (2) commissioners of the Buhl Economic Development Authority (BEDA) be members of the City Council and amending the City of Buhl Code of Ordinances Section § 31.05 clarifying setting commissioner compensation provisions to comply with that required by state statute, and any other section of Ordinance 31 which may be pertinent.**

**Supported by Teska-Erickson.**

Discussion. Approve/Reject/Table.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

J. Consider Filling BEDA Board Member Vacancies.

This item is a continuation of recent discussions of the City Council.

There are presently two (2) vacancies on the Buhl Economic Development Authority (BEDA) board of commissioners.

One (1) of these existing vacancies is currently required to be filled with a member of the City of Buhl City Council. The term of this vacancy will coincide with the term of office of the selected member of the City Council.

The other (at-large) vacancy will serve to fill a recently vacated seat on BEDA, and will have a term which expires on December 31, 2026.

The City previously public noticed that Expressions Of Interest for serving on BEDA would be received by the City until 11:00 a.m. on February 28, 2025.

Four (4) Buhl residents have completed and submitted an Expression Of Interest; these are attached to this memorandum for Mayoral and City Council consideration.

**Recommendation is for the City to fill these available openings on the Buhl Economic Development Authority (BEDA) board of commissioners as soon as practicable.**

**Motion by Matthews to appoint John Klarich as a commissioner on the Buhl Economic Development Authority (BEDA) with a term that expires December 31, 2026.**

**Supported by Teska-Erickson.**

Discussion. Approve/Reject/Table.

Miscellaneous comment and discussion regarding this motion ensued -

**Motion failed.**

**Motion by Matthews to appoint Lyle Pederson as a commissioner on the Buhl Economic Development Authority (BEDA) with a term that expires December 31, 2026.**

**Supported by Loeffler.**

Discussion. Approve/Reject/Table.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion by Matthews to appoint Taunya Teska-Erickson as a commissioner on the Buhl Economic Development Authority (BEDA) with a term that coincides with her term as a member of the City Council.**

**Supported by Kealy.**

Discussion. Approve/Reject/Table.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

- K. Consider Granting Permission to the St. Louis County Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program to Host a Watercraft Inspector at the Buhl Pit Lake Access Periodically Throughout the 2025 Open Water Season.

The North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) operates an aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention program to protect area waters from the propagation and spread of these non-native flora and fauna that negatively impact the ecology, economic benefit, and recreational enjoyment of these waters.

A part of this program is a watercraft inspection program which check boats and other watercraft prior to entering and as they leave waters for AIS.

Each year the program looks for new options/locations for conducting the watercraft inspection and education program.

For the 2025 open water season, the SWCD hopes to include the Buhl Pit (Iron Chief Complex) lake and boat landing in this program.

Primarily, the SWCD AIS program is on the lookout for zebra mussels, which have historically realized an uptick in infesting the abandoned iron ore pits in our region.

The SWCD is requesting permission to conduct at least a couple of watercraft inspection shifts in this water body, which will likely be based at the boat landing.

**Recommendation is for the City to allow this activity to occur.**

**Motion by Kealy for the City to allow the North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District to periodically access the water body at the Buhl Pit during the 2025 open water season to conduct periodic Aquatic Invasive Species inspections on watercraft utilizing these waters.**

**Supported by Teska-Erickson.**

Discussion. Approve/Reject/Table.

Comment received regarding any potential enforcement postures that may be a result of these activities – it was noted that this

program aims for and is focused on identification and detection of any potential aquatic invasive species, and not enforcement of watercraft operators -

**Motion carried unanimously.**

- L. Consider Appointing an Individual to the Buhl Public Library Board.

As a result of a term expiring for a member of the City of Buhl Library Board, a vacancy now exists on that Board, which the City has expressed a desire to fill.

The term of this vacancy on the Board expires December 31, 2027.

An Expression Of Interest to serve in this capacity was completed and received from one (1) individual, James Conger.

The Library Board motioned to appoint James Conger to the Board on February 20, 2025, pending approval from the City Council.

**Recommendation is for the City to appoint James Conger to this position.**

**Motion by Teska-Erickson to appoint James Conger to serve on the City of Buhl Library Board, with a term that expires December 31, 2027.**

**Supported by Loeffler.**

Discussion. Approve/Reject/Table.

Mr. Conger was thanked for his interest in serving the community.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

- M. Update on Status of Granting Ingress/Egress Easement for 99 Jones Avenue.

On November 25, 2024, the City Council voted to grant an access easement for ingress/egress to the owners of properties located at 99 and 101 Jones Avenue in Buhl. Please note that this action will not include permanent parking provisions.

This was necessitated by the actions of Gabriel LaBarge, the owner of certain real properties located at 99 Jones Avenue, during the process of selling and conveying these properties to another private purchaser.

First American Title company had noted and indicated that the only way to access the rear yard and an associated detached garage on Mr. LaBarge's properties is by crossing City of Buhl property. No developed or established

road or road right-of-way exists in this area, nor do any other specific permissions.

To rectify this situation, an easement needs to be granted allowing traversing over City property to access this address.

There are similar access issues regarding the properties located at 101 Jones Avenue, owned and held by Ms. Julia Joyal, which are also included in this action.

The City Engineer has reviewed and created property descriptions for inclusion into these easements.

The City Attorney has finalized drafting these easements, and intends to bring these forward to the City Council at the March 18, 2025 regular City Council meeting.

**Informational only.**

Comment received as to why this matter did not go before the city Planning and Zoning Commission – it was indicated that this is with regard to a legal right of access and is not a zoning matter -

**N. Update on St. Louis County CDBG and HOME Programs Requalification.**

The St. Louis County Economic and Community Development Department has partnered with local cities and townships since 1992 to access funding from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) programs administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

This arrangement and relationship has allowed the County to leverage the opportunity to access funding to a greater degree than if a city or township were to pursue this independently (on their own), as it decreases the applicant pool seeking funding and allows the County to leverage a number of local projects into a larger (and potentially more attractive) regional project.

Every three (3) years, the County must requalify this arrangement and relationship with HUD to remain eligible to receive CDBG and HOME funding.

Subsequently, the Joint Cooperation Agreement (JCA) between St. Louis County and partnering cities and townships must also be requalified.

The County process is to automatically extend this qualification for a successive three-year term to its partner communities.

Communities wishing to continue this arrangement need not do anything; if a community wishes or chooses to discontinue participating (in the JCA), it must notify the County and HUD in writing of this intention.

Should the City choose to discontinue participating, it must notify both the County Economic and Community Development Department and HUD by June 15, 2025.

Staff contends that it is in the best interest of the City to continue participating in the JCA, as it may allow for greater consideration of receiving CDBG or HOME funding than if it were to operate independently.

**Informational only.**

O. Update on Potential Stubler Beach Campground Expansion Initiatives.

The City operates the Stubler Beach Campground as a rustic (primitive) amenity offered to residents and non-residents alike for overnight lodging during the months of April through October of each year.

This facility is comprised of eight (8) campsites with tent pads and room for limited parking, with no other facilities (water, sewer, electricity, dump station) available on the property.

Rest room (and shower?) facilities are provided at Stubler Beach, in near proximity of the campground.

The City has been investigating the possibility of expanding this facility; presently it is working with Community and Economic Development Associates (CEDA) for preparation efforts connected with applying for a Department of Natural Resources grant which is due at the end of March 2025.

Additionally, the City will be meeting in the immediate future with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) regarding the campground facility as it presently is configured, as well as how it may be configured under an expansion proposal.

It is anticipated that the facility will need to be licensed by the MDH in 2025 regardless of potential expansion initiatives.

At this time, the anticipated expansion would be for an additional 8 – 10 campsites, with no present plans to alter the rustic (primitive) attraction of the facility, if allowable.

A Public Workshop regarding the community posture on this proposed expansion is scheduled to be held at the March 18, 2025 regular City Council meeting.

More information regarding this initiative is anticipated to be available by April 2025.

**Informational only.**



P. Other Business,

Question raised by a resident regarding members of the Buhl Youth Center committee and where their stipends are sourced from – it was indicated that stipends are sourced from an existing Department of Public Transformation grant that will expire in May 2025 –

- Also question raised regarding whether these positions were publicly posted – it was noted that this is not a city-established board or committee -

Q. Councilors' Comments.

Councilor Kealy –

Noted that she is glad with the actions regarding BEDA which occurred at this meeting -

Councilor Towner –

Discussed how to approach the next BEDA meeting and the possibility of calling a special meeting to begin the by-laws amendment process -

R. Mayor's Comments.

Noted that there has been a lot of recent Facebook activity concerning issues that are City business – and urged the public to review the meeting recordings to get a better understanding of why there have been initiatives regarding BEDA introduced, and reassured the public that these issues are being addressed and that BEDA, and its business items, are moving forward -

**8. ADJOURN:**


**Motion by Towner to adjourn.**

**Supported by Teska-Erickson.**

**Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.**

  
James Matthews, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Tony Jeffries, City Clerk