

MINUTES
BUHL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
10/7/2025

Tuesday, October 7, 2025

6:30 P.M.

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

2. ROLL CALL:

Councilors: 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: X Lehman
Police Chief: Vukad
Finance Manager: Thronson

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA/COUNCIL ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

Two (2) additional items were requested by Administrator Jeffries to be added to the agenda –

Expand Item 7. J. - Consider Applying to the Mn Department of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation for a Community Development Grant Appropriation for Redevelopment of the Former Laundromat Located at 206 State Street.

Add Item 7.Q. - Consider Applying for a St. Louis County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for a Grant Appropriation for Buhl City-Wide Wastewater and Infrastructure Upgrades.

Motion by Teska-Erickson to approve the agenda as amended.

Supported by Loeffler.

Discussion. Approve/Reject/Table.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS:

City Engineer John Jamnick:

Gave an update on the water tower construction project – the bid opening date has been rescheduled to Thursday, October 16, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. at City Hall – too accommodate the national holiday of October 11, 2025 -

Noted that he was in contact with the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority (MPFA), and that they requested additional information regarding the useful life calculations and analysis of the water tower – this information was submitted to the MPFA –

Sue Letendre, Chair, Buhl Quasquicentennial (125th) Committee:

Addressed the council and requested that the City consider donating to the 125th celebration, and offered information regarding what has been planned to date –

The biggest ticket item at this time appears to be the fireworks display – this will be approximately \$10,000

The event will be held on June 26 & 27, 2026 –

Administrator Jeffries offered insight on how to conduct (exempt or excluded) raffles as fund raisers for the event –

The City Council appeared receptive to considering these requests -

Administrator Jeffries:

1. Verified the rescheduled water tower construction bid opening date noted above;
2. Explained the requested additional agenda item 7.Q. to consider expanding the initiative of seeking funding for the Buhl City-Wide Wastewater and Infrastructure Upgrades to include applying for a St. Louis County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG);
3. Noted that seeking grant funding for the proposed State Street Apartments project could be expanded to include the State of MN Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation (IRRR) Public Works and Housing grant programs in addition to the previously contemplated Community Development grant program; and
4. Highlighted that the next step in the Comprehensive Plan update project is to assimilate and integrate the information generated at the

public input sessions held on September 22 and 29 into the (updated) plan document; and that ARDC Planning would like to meet with the Long Range Planning and Zoning Commission within the next month to review this information and the overall status of the Plan update project .

5. CITIZENS FORUM:

Judy Wahlberg, Great Scott Township Board of Supervisors –

Deferred comment until Agenda item 7.A.;

Cheryl Kivi, Buhl Resident

Declined to comment as her (water tower) inquiries had been addressed;

Sue Letendre, Chair; Buhl's 125th Committee

Noted that her items were addressed under Item 4. above; and

Melody Staffaroni, Buhl Resident

Commented on the Buhl Business Block – and inquired whether the funds have been appropriated for the water tower construction project (not completely);

Inquired as to the Community Center re-lamping project and whether any other buildings in town, or how many, had already been retrofitted;

Inquired as to the proposed project the paving the remaining alleys in town, and highlighted that those residents who have paved alleys paid for them;

Noted that an ordinance should be created to present a financial report when seeking financial donations from the City;

Inquired as to how the process of seeking a City Clerk/Treasurer (process is in the Human Resources consultant's hands – who will generate a finalist list);

Inquired as to whether the blight issue on the corner of Forest Street and Culver Avenue ever went to court – (still being discussed between legal counsel and City of Chisholm legal counsel) -

6. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes:

Regular City Council Meeting – September 16, 2025
City Council Budget Working Session – September 24, 2025

B. Claims:

i.	Payroll #19	\$ 14,746.66
	Payroll #20	\$ 15,232.81
	Payroll 9 (September 2025)	\$ 2,475.00
ii.	A/P	<u>\$ 68,083.22</u>
TOTAL		\$ 100,537.79

Motion by Towner to approve the Consent Agenda minutes and claims as presented.

Supported by Teska-Erickson.

Discussion. Approve/Reject/Table.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. BUSINESS:

A. Discuss Possible Future Partnership on a Joint Public Works/Fire Department Building with Great Scott Township.

The Buhl Economic Development Authority (BEDA) received communication from Great Scott Township in May 2025 regarding considering a potential acquisition of land from BEDA to house a new facility for the Kinney/Great Scott Fire Department.

This inquiry also proposed consideration of the possibility or opportunity for the Buhl Fire Department, and/or possibly the Buhl Public Works Department, to also relocate on this property and create a joint multi-agency resource center.

BEDA ultimately responded with a Letter of Intent to Great Scott Township indicating its interest and support of considering providing land(s) for siting and construction of a Great Scott Township municipal public works facility and/or a (City of) Kinney/Great Scott Township fire department facility, and to consider consolidation of fire department services and potential co-

location of public works operations in a public works facility separately hosting Great Scott Township as well as the City of Buhl.

With this recommendation and action by BEDA, along with continued interest by Great Scott Township, this item has now been elevated to the City Council level.

These possibilities appear to be in the best interests of all parties involved, and that, in and of itself, is sufficient to consider entertaining additional conversations with Great Scott Township/City of Kinney.

Discussion as to ultimate land ownership, how this would affect potential funding sources, and upsides and downsides of this are all anticipated to be included in exploratory discussions –

Another aspect worthy of consideration is to who would “own” a consolidated fire department - Buhl would likely become the “owner” of any consolidated fire department, as it is the larger organization as they (all) currently separately exist –

Informational only.

The Administrator distributed a letter from Great Scott Township that had very recently been received – which was read by Mayor Matthews -

Representatives of Great Scott Township were in attendance and commented on the status of this initiative, including –

Great Scott Township remains amenable to continuing to pursue this opportunity;

Clarified the land(s) being considered by Great Scott Township;

Noted that the Buhl property is pretty much the only potentially acceptable lands under consideration);

Noted that merging of the Fire Departments would be a good idea;

Indicated that it may be a reasonable time to determine who would be joining together in this process, and where -

Commented that should this initiative go forward, it needs to be determined if land(s) would be a purchase, or possibly a contribution.

Mayor Matthews indicated that Buhl is quite interested and fully supported of continuing to move this project forward (and to determine whether it should be a joint venture) –

Matthews also suggested a committee should be created with representatives from all parties to spearhead further discussions – and perhaps a consultant should be considered from an advisory capacity -

Suggested that a joint effort may be more advantageous in attempting to leverage funding opportunities-

It was noted that this process should occur within the next ten (10) years, at most;

Several City Councilors indicated they would be interested in participating in such a committee –

Administrator Jeffries noted that this item had previously been brought before BEDA, who recommended that the City Council move forward with these discussions, and also noted that BEDA had previously issued a Letter of Intent (LOI) to Great Scott Township supporting the project and process -

B. Consider Approval of JPJ Engineering, Inc. Invoice No. 5 for the Water Storage Improvements Project No. 09-061 in the Amount of \$4,280.00.

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 August 2025, and includes professional activities related to the above-referenced project.

Specifically, these charges are identified as (engineering) Design services performed and remitted by JPJ Engineering, Inc., in the amount of \$ 4,280.00.

This amount now represents 90% of the design component of these services as complete.

Recommendation is to approve and remit to JPJ Engineering, Inc. invoice No. 5 for professional services related to Project No. 09-061 in the amount of \$ 4,280.00 upon validation of the services performed.

Motion by Teska-Erickson to approve payment of Invoice No. 5 for Project No. 09-061 to JPJ Engineering, Inc., in the amount of \$ 4,280.00.

Supported by Towner.

Discussion. Approve/Reject/Table.

It was noted that these engineering design (and pre-design) costs will be eligible for reimbursement from grant appropriations -

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Update on Proposed 2026 Preliminary Budget.

The City has the process of developing the 2026 City of Buhl budget well underway at this time.

The 2026 proposed preliminary budget has been accepted by the City Council and the preliminary levy proposed as a result of this budget accepted, approved, and certified to the St. Louis County Auditor.

The preliminary 2026 budget includes the following top-layer highlights:

Total Revenues –	\$ 900,565
Total Expenses –	\$ 1,420,892
Preliminary Projected Shortfall -	\$ 520,327
(For levy purposes, say	\$ 521,000)

This preliminary shortfall translates into the preliminary (property tax) levy, as no additional sources of revenue remain to cover the total expenses, and therefore the preliminary levy for payable 2026 has been set at \$521,000.00.

Individual departmental line items will be evaluated and discussed at the four (4) remaining Budget Planning Workshop Sessions, scheduled for

October 16;	October 30;
November 13; and	December 11.

Additional line-item level evaluation will ultimately alter the final total levy amount; it is the goal of the City to reduce the amount of this levy to the greatest extent reasonable without jeopardizing or compromising City programs and operations.

Final budget (and levy) amounts are due to be certified to the St. Louis County Auditor by December 28, 2025.

Informational only.

D. Consider Awarding Buhl Business Block Water Main Loop Construction Project to Recommended Contractor.

The City solicited and received bids for the “Business Park Development” project (JPJ Engineering Project No. 23-207). Sealed bids were opened at 11:00 a.m. on July 24, 2025.

This project includes the expansion and installation of water and wastewater infrastructure at the Buhl Business Block, as well as the creation of a (south side) water main loop to serve the entire community-wide water distribution system.

The low responsible bidder for this phase and portion of the project was Utility Systems of America, P.O. Box 706, Eveleth, MN 55734 (USA).

JPJ Engineering, Inc., the City Engineer, has recommended that the project be awarded to USA.

It was also previously recommended that the City accept the City Engineer’s recommendation.

This action was tabled due to a lack of clarity and certainty regarding previously appropriated funding allocations; this has now been clarified, to a degree, which may enable a decision and action on this item at this time.

Recommendation is to again accept the City Engineer recommendation and approve the City Engineer’s recommended contractor for this project.

Motion by Towner to accept JPJ Engineering’s recommendation on the Business Park Development project and to approve the selection of JPJ Engineering’s recommended contractor for the Base Bid portion of JPJ Engineering Project 23-207, and to authorize JPJ Engineering to move forward with the development of a project agreement with Utility Systems of America, Inc. in the amount of \$ 742,325.75.

Supported by Loeffler.

Discussion. Approve/Reject/Table.

JPJ Engineering indicated that no new information had been received regarding funding source since the last time this item was under consideration –

- And indicated that the recommended contractor had expressed a willingness to hold their bid amount open for a time past 60 days –

It was stressed that the funding piece has still not yet been clarified to a point where the funding allocation was fully understood, and tabling the item was suggested -

Motion tabled; no action taken.

E. Consider Approving Posting for Employment of Seasonal Winter Rink Attendants.

The City desires additional seasonal labor services over the winter months to assist in maintaining the attractiveness and safety of the community.

Specifically, the City wants to hire winter Rink Attendants labor for Recreation Department activities, including manning and attending the warming shack, cleaning the rink(s) surfaces, maintaining the ice conditions, monitoring guest and user safety, and other light duties.

Recommendation is to authorize staff to publicly post and publish a Notice of Advertisement to fill these positions.

Motion by Teska-Erickson to authorize staff to publicly post and publish a Notice of Advertisement for 2025-26 Recreation Department Winter Rink Attendant labor positions.

Supported by Towner.

Discussion. Approve/Reject/Table.

It was mentioned that by going out with posting early, that additional interest may be generated and a full crew identified or retained –

Motion carried unanimously.

F. Consider Approving CPR Training for City Staff.

City consultants last provided cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training and certification to City staff in April of 2023.

Taunya & Ted Erickson provided this CPR training and certification services to City Public Works and administrative staff at that time.

The City was provided the opportunity to participate in this training and certification at the cost of \$100 per participant.

These certifications have now expired; it has been suggested that additional training and/or certification is appropriate at this time.

Although not certain at present, it is hoped that this training may be procured at the same rate as previously (\$100 per participant).

Recommendation is to approve training and certification for up to three (3) City Public Works employees and four (4) City administrative employees for \$100 per participant.

Motion by Towner to approve CPR training and certification for three (3) City Public Works employees and four (4) City administrative employees, to be conducted by Ted Erickson and Taunya Teska-Erickson, for \$100 per participant.

Supported by Loeffler.

Discussion. Approve/Reject/Table.

It was noted that the Fire Department does not receive CPR training at the moment, and perhaps the City should consider offering this –

It was also noted that the mannequins the City owns are outdated and no longer usable -

Motion carried unanimously; Teska-Erickson abstaining.

G. Update on Comprehensive Plan Update Public Input Sessions and Successive Activities with ARDC.

The City has retained ARDC Planning, a division of the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC), for planning, development, and consulting services related to updating the City of Buhl's Comprehensive Plan.

This Plan was most recently updated in 2015.

A portion of the scope of project activities is to engage the community and involve them in decision-making to create a community-supported plan. This was to be accomplished through a public open house/input session to provide information on the community conditions and proposed updates to the plan's goals and objectives.

Two (2) public input sessions were conducted in the recent past – 1) Monday, September 22, 2025; and 2) Monday, September 29, 2025, both in the City Council Chambers in City Hall.

A total of twenty-four (24) attendees participated in one or both of these sessions.

“Snow card” exercises and other techniques were utilized to allow for participants to identify their priorities for the city of Buhl’s future; subject matter and comments received have been incorporated into one (1) of seven (7) main subject areas of the Comprehensive Plan, including:

- 1) Housing;
- 2) Transportation;
- 3) Utilities/Community Facilities;
- 4) Economic Development, including Mining, Timber & Tourism;
- 5) Natural, Recreational and Cultural Resources;
- 6) Land Use; and
- 7) Intergovernmental Cooperation.

ARDC staff are incorporating these comments into the updated plan and will be meeting with the Buhl Long-Range Planning and Zoning Commission in the next several weeks; a final public session is anticipated in December; and the project is continuing to strive toward a 2025 completion.

Informational only.

H. Consider Applying for a St. Louis County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for a Grant Appropriation for Redevelopment of the Former Laundromat Site Located at 206 State Street.

The City continues to look forward to the redevelopment of the site of the former Buhl Laundromat. As a portion of this redevelopment, demolition and removal of the existing structure located at 206 State Street will need to occur, as the current structure on this property is not a candidate for renewal, refurbishment, or renovation.

Zenith Property Management, LLC, of Duluth, Minnesota, is the owner of this parcel.

It has been determined that Zenith Property Management will be reliant on the City of Buhl to assist in redevelopment efforts.

In order to accomplish this, it is anticipated that the City of Buhl will have to act as the fiscal agent to manage any funding which this project may receive, since this funding would be appropriated to the City of Buhl and not to a private party (e.g. Zenith Property Management).

The City could assist in this process by being a party to any or all opportunities for funding appropriations for which this project may be eligible; it is recommended that the City of Buhl enter into a Development

Agreement with Zenith Property Management to prescribe and manage all project activities.

Recommendation is for the City to apply for any and all grant appropriations to assist these redevelopment efforts.

Motion by Towner to direct the Administrator to apply for a St. Louis County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for a Grant Appropriation for Redevelopment of the Former Laundromat Site Located at 206 State Street, and to expend these funds, if awarded, in an acceptable and compliant manner.

Supported by Teska-Erickson.

Discussion. Approve/Reject/Table.

It was noted that Zenith Property Management, the owner of the property, is in favor of this-

It was also noted that there definitely needs to be a Development Agreement between Zenith Property Management and the City, and at this time this instrument is not yet in place – and there is nothing in writing at the present time -

Motion carried unanimously.

- I. Consider Applying for a St. Louis County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for a Grant Appropriation for Lighting Upgrades for the Buhl Community Center.

The City continues to desire the upgrade and improvement of the Buhl Community Center facility. Certain elements of these improvements have been identified for early-stage initiatives.

Among these is the change-out and retrofit (replacement) of all electrical lighting fixtures at the facility, not only to greatly improve existing overall lighting, but also to realize measurable, if not substantial, energy savings.

There appear to be some funding mechanisms potentially available for assisting on realizing this project. Among these is a St. Louis County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) opportunity.

The City of Buhl appears to meet all the eligibility criteria for a CDBG grant, and the project also appears to be an eligible project with eligible activities included which could be assisted by a CDBG grant.

Therefore, city staff is requesting approval to submit a CDBG application to St. Louis County to aid in these efforts.

Please note that the city is also intending to seek potential funding for this project from other sources.

Recommendation is for the City to apply for this CDBG grant for a portion of the Community Center lighting upgrades project.

Motion by Towner to direct the Administrator to apply for a St. Louis County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for a Grant Appropriation for Lighting Upgrades for the Buhl Community Center, and to expend these funds, if awarded, in an acceptable and compliant manner.

Supported by Loeffler.

Discussion. Approve/Reject/Table.

General comments related to the facility were received -

It was noted that fitting the facility with new lamps would open up the facility for more uses and events, as well as make it more attractive in general -

Motion carried unanimously.

- J. Consider Applying to the Mn Department of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation for a Community Development Grant Appropriation for Redevelopment of the Former Laundromat Located at 206 State Street.

The City continues to look forward to the redevelopment of the site of the former Buhl Laundromat, as discussed previously in this City Council meeting.

An additional potential funding mechanism which has been identified for this project is through the Mn Department of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation (IRRR) Community Development Grant program.

This program can and is intended to provide funding assistance to municipalities to assist in re-developing existing brownfield sites.

The former laundromat re-development appears to meet eligibility criteria, but only if the City of Buhl will be the applicant and, if awarded, act as a fiduciary with the property owner(s) (Zenith Property Management).

Zenith Property Management has requested the City's participation and partnership in this endeavor, which the City has indicated to be in favor of.

In order to accomplish this, it is again anticipated that the City of Buhl will have to act as the fiscal agent to manage any funding which this project may receive from the IRRR, since this funding would be appropriated to the City of Buhl and not to a private party.

Recommendation is for the City to approve applying for said grant appropriations to assist these redevelopment efforts.

Motion by Towner to direct the Administrator to apply for a Mn Department of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Community Development Grant and/or a Public Works and Housing Grant for Redevelopment of the Former Laundromat Located at 206 State Street, and to expend these funds, if awarded, in an acceptable and compliant manner.

Supported by Loeffler.

Discussion. Approve/Reject/Table.

It was noted that this methodology was suggested by the IRRR -

Motion carried unanimously.

- K. Consider Resolution 25-38 Supporting the City's Application to the Office of Minnesota Management and Budget for Municipal Wastewater Improvements.

The State of Minnesota Office of Management and Budget is now accepting requests for capital budget eligible projects for 2026. The deadline is October 17.

Potential funding allocated for selected projects would be distributed through what is commonly referred to as the "bonding bill".

The City has received allocations from recent bonding bills, however substantial work remains to preserve existing infrastructure and repair or improve existing facilities. Additionally, the allocations previously received have either been consumed, or the amounts are not sufficient to carry all anticipated project expenditures to completion.

A portion of the capital budget request process is to include a local resolution of support from the governing body.

Recommendation is to submit a capital budget request for the 2026 Capital Budget Year for city-wide wastewater improvements including, but not limited to, water storage and distribution wastewater preservation and improvement, Buhl Business Block sewer infrastructure preservation and

expansion, Buhl Business Block design development, and additional residential development pre-design, design, and infrastructure initiatives.

Motion by Teska-Erickson to accept and adopt Resolution 25-38 to submit a Capital Project Request to the MN Office of Management and Budget for City-Wide Wastewater Improvements for the 2026 Capital Budget Year.

Supported by Towner.

Discussion. Approve/Reject/Table.

Mayor Matthews explained that it is the current interpretation by the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development (USDA-RD), as to what are considered eligible grant activities, as a primary reason for attempting to secure this funding –

A lingering concern about the storage and pumping capacity of the municipal equipment (e.g. wastewater lift station(s)) to achieve maximum flow from Buhl to the CIRSSD treatment facility was commented on -

Roll Call Vote: Kealy Absent, Loeffler Aye, Teska-Erickson Aye, Towner Aye; Matthews Aye.

Motion carried unanimously.

L. Consider Accepting Resignation of a Commissioner of the Buhl Economic Development Authority (BEDA).

The Buhl Economic Development Authority (BEDA) recently received a notice of resignation from Commissioner Lyle Pederson, effective September 24, 2025 –

Should this resignation be accepted, a vacancy on BEDA will be created, which will need to be filled –

A such, past and common practice is to post public notice of this vacancy and to solicit interest in this position from city residents -

Motion by Towner to accept the resignation of Lyle Pederson as a Commissioner of the Buhl Economic Development Authority (BEDA) with regret, to thank him for his valuable service to the community, and to post public notice soliciting Expressions of Interest in this vacancy in the usual City of Buhl notice locations until October 31, 2025.

Supported by Teska-Erickson.

Discussion. Approve/Reject/Table.

Interested parties are encouraged to submit the proper Solicitation of Interest form, which is available at City Hall -

Motion carried unanimously.

M. Consider Accepting Resignation of a Commissioner of the Buhl Long-Range Planning and Zoning Commission.

The City of Buhl Long-Range Planning and Zoning Commission recently received a notice of resignation from Commissioner Lyle Pederson, effective September 24, 2025 –

Should this resignation be accepted, a vacancy on the Long-Range Planning and Zoning Commission be created, which will need to be filled –

A such, past and common practice is to post public notice of this vacancy and to solicit interest in this position from city residents -

Motion by Towner to accept the resignation of Lyle Pederson as a Commissioner of the City of Buhl Long-Range Planning and Zoning Commission with regret, to thank him for his valuable service to the community, and to post public notice soliciting Expressions of Interest in this vacancy in the usual City of Buhl notice locations until October 31, 2025.

Supported by Teska-Erickson.

Discussion. Approve/Reject/Table.

Motion carried unanimously.

N. Consider Accepting Resignation of a Member of the Buhl Recreation Board.

The City of Buhl Recreation Board recently received a notice of resignation from member Taryn Burnett, effective October 1, 2025 –

Should this resignation be accepted, a vacancy on the Recreation Board will be created, which will need to be filled –

A such, past and common practice is to post public notice of this vacancy and to solicit interest in this position from city residents -

Motion by Teska-Erickson to accept the resignation of Taryn Burnett as a Member of the City of Buhl Recreation Board with regret, to thank her for her valuable service to

the community, and to post public notice soliciting Expressions of Interest in this vacancy in the usual City of Buhl notice locations until October 31, 2025.

Supported by Towner.

Discussion. Approve/Reject/Table.

Comment was received regarding Taryn's contributions to the Recreation Board -

Motion carried unanimously.

O. Consider Resolution 25-39 Authorizing the City to Accept and Receive a Donation to the City of Buhl Recreation Board.

The City has received a donation from a local business who has offered goods or currency to the City's Recreation Board as a financial contribution to help offset costs related to the City of Buhl recreational events and other related recreational activities.

Specifically, the City has received a donation of currency for recreational programming from the following:

- Billy's Pit Stop Pub - N - Grub; Buhl - \$ 40.00.

The City wishes to recognize this contribution as continuing to make the City's important civic and recreational initiatives a popular success.

Recommendation is for the City to accept this donation.

Motion by Towner to authorize the City to accept a donation from Billy's Pit Stop Pub - N – Grub; Buhl, Mn to the City and its' Recreation Board as a financial contribution to help offset costs related to the City of Buhl recreational programs, events, and activities, to execute Resolution 25-39 concerning the same, and to acknowledge this donation with great appreciation.

Supported by Teska-Erickson.

Discussion. Approve/Reject/Table.

Roll Call Vote: Kealy Absent, Loeffler Aye, Teska-Erickson Aye, Towner Aye; Matthews Aye.

Motion carried unanimously.

P. Reminder of October 16, 2025 Budget Planning Working Session.

The preliminary budget for fiscal year 2026 was introduced on September 16, 2025 for City Council consideration.

The City also adopted a proposed tax levy for fiscal year 2026 earlier at that meeting.

A dedicated budget planning working session of the City Council was conducted on September 24, 2025.

The City certified the proposed tax levy for fiscal year 2026 to the St. Louis County Auditor before September 30, 2025.

The final budget and tax levy is anticipated to be prepared and completed in December 2025, and the final tax levy must be certified to the St. Louis County Auditor by December 26, 2025.

Additional further evaluation and review is warranted in order to achieve a workable fiscal year 2026 budget that is acceptable to the City Council. Four (4) dedicated budget planning working sessions remain for further 2026 budget evaluation and review with the City Council in the near future.

These remaining 2025 dates (if needed) are presently set for: **October 16**; October 30; November 13; and December 11, all at 6:00 p.m., in the City Council chambers in City Hall.

Further budget working session(s) as scheduled above will be held at those times should additional evaluation and review of the fiscal year 2026 budget be necessary or desired.

Informational only.

- Q. Consider Applying for a St. Louis County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for a Grant Appropriation for Buhl City-Wide Wastewater and Infrastructure Upgrades.

The City continues to desire the upgrade and improvement of all infrastructure elements serving its residents. Certain elements of planned improvements have potentially been compromised in their funding eligibility as of late.

The City has been informed that certain federally appropriated grant funds may be eligible for water-related improvements only.

Should this interpretation remain and prevail, planned Buhl infrastructure projects, notably for wastewater activities (sanitary sewer) and stormwater improvements may not be eligible to receive adequate funding to complete this work.

The stormwater elements include certain roadway activities, including establishing new roadways in some cases, and the upgrade of existing roadways in others.

There appear to be some additional funding mechanisms potentially available for assisting on realizing this project. Among these is a St. Louis County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) opportunity. The City of Buhl appears to meet all the eligibility criteria for a CDBG grant, and the project also appears to be an eligible project with eligible activities included which could be assisted by a CDBG grant.

Therefore, city staff is requesting approval to submit a CDBG application to St. Louis County to aid in these efforts.

Recommendation is for the City to apply for this CDBG grant for a portion of the wastewater and infrastructure upgrades.

Motion by Towner to direct the Administrator to apply for a St. Louis County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for an appropriation for Buhl City-Wide Wastewater and Infrastructure Upgrades, and to expend these funds, if awarded, in an acceptable and compliant manner.

Supported by Teska-Erickson.

Discussion. Approve/Reject/Table.

Mayor Matthews explained the rationale, including the need to look for other funding opportunities as a result of the USDA-RD funding eligibility interpretation -

Motion carried unanimously.

R. Councilors' Comments.

Councilor Loeffler –

Thanked the public who attended and participated in the Public Input Sessions which were held on September 22 and September 29 as a portion of the Comprehensive Plan Update process –

Discussed initiatives that the Recreation Board is undertaking with regard to the planned civic Halloween activities –

Announced that there will be a dance for 11-17 year-olds on the evening of the Halloween celebration –

Councilor Towner –

Provided additional information regarding the Halloween celebration and its associated parade and the party planned for that day -

Noted that the addition of the Halloween dance has been a very successful addition to these events in the last couple of years -

Indicated that this event is quickly becoming Buhl's biggest celebration -

S. Mayor's Comments.

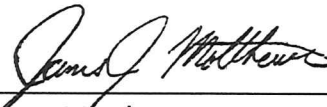
Noted that these are some tough times – the political waves which are being experienced were not anticipated early in this year; in the meantime, the strategy will be that the City will continue to look for alternative funding until these federal interpretations are clarified -

8. ADJOURN:

Motion by Teska-Erickson to adjourn.

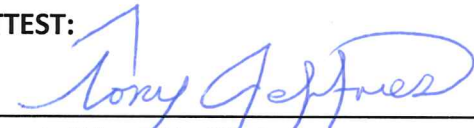
Supported by Towner.

Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.



James Matthews, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tony Jeffries, City Clerk