

MINUTES
BUHL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2/3/2026

Tuesday, February 3, 2026,

5:00 P.M.

1. CALLED TO ORDER by Mayor Matthews at 5:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present were Mayor Matthews, and Councilors Kealy, Loeffler, Teska-Erickson, and Towner.

Also present were City Engineer John Jamnick and Clerk-Treasurer Jaeger.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA/COUNCIL ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

Motion by Councilor Towner to approve the agenda as presented.

Supported by Councilor Kealy.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS:

City Engineer Jamnick:

Jamnick gave an update on the Water System Improvement Project. He had received a letter from the Minnesota Department of Administration's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) stating a list to complete in regard to the Area of Potential Effects (APE). This is the area where the city is putting pipes in. A Historical review will need to be completed for this project and because City Hall and the Library are on the Historical Register, it reinforces the fact that a Historical review needs to be completed. An Architectural Historian will need to be hired to complete the Historical review.

We are still waiting for the ground tank report from USG, and we also need to find out if Tony Jeffries finished the USDA application. Tyler Ray from USDA RD should be contacted to see what still needs to be completed. We are also working with Peter Bradshaw to stay on top of the PFA funding.

Public Utility Foreman Pink:

Pink wrote a letter to the council that was read by Jaeger during the meeting. The letter explained that because of a electrical failure in the pump house the controls and monitoring devices for the distribution pumps were down. Because of these events the water tower was not being filled, creating loss of water for the entire city. Once the

power was returned the pumps had lost their prime due to the loss of pressure on the system. Pressure was brought back by using the back up well and the system was returned back to normal.

The cause of failure is unknown but suspected to be due to the original wiring, fuse panel, and meter base. Power was restored by rewiring, but these are only temporary fixes and would like to ask the council to motion to approve the lowest quote of the quotes I am currently waiting on to fix the pump house electrical issue.

The city is currently in a boil advisory directed by the Minnesota Department of Health due to the water tower events. There is no confirmed problem with the water. The loss of water pressure could potentially introduce bacteria into the system. Water samples were collected and sent to the lab. It is projected to have the results back on February 4th but could be longer pending sample results.

The Council added Pump House Electrical quote decision to New Business E.

Clerk-Treasurer Jaeger:

Jaeger reminded the Buhl citizens that it is against ordinance:

- 72.01, Sec. A to park on a sidewalk
- 72.02, Sec. B.3 to park a motor vehicle upon the boulevards within the city
- 74.03, Sec. B to operate a snowmobile on a sidewalk or boulevard other than using the sidewalk or boulevard to cross to obtain access to an alley

Jaeger also stated that a Lead & Copper Site Plan Survey will be going out with this month's utility bills. Please fill them out and get them back to City Hall at your earliest convenience.

It is Caucus night. The Republican Party caucus will be held at the Chisholm Elementary School cafeteria. The Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party caucus will be held at the Buhl Senior Center. Doors will open at 6:30 pm and meetings will commence at 7:00pm.

5. CITIZENS FORUM:

Al Flaschberger would like to speak on agenda item 7A. The Council said he can wait to voice his concerns and comment during the agenda 7A discussion.

6. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Minutes:

- i. Regular City Council Meeting – January 20, 2026

B. Claims

- i. Payroll #1 \$2,350.00
 - ii. Payroll #2 \$16,023.60

 - iii. A/P #1 \$28,764.46
-

TOTAL

\$47,138.06

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

Supported by Councilor Towner.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Stubler and Damian Additions Default Properties

Discussion was had on what to do with the properties in the Stubler and Damian additions that are in default of the property covenants. The council agreed to talk more on the subject on February 26, 2026, council study session.

Al Flaschberger recommended sending everyone in the Stubler and Damian additions who are in default of their property a Quit Claim Deed. Then the property owners would either fill it out or have to go to City Hall to address the issue. Mr. Flaschberger also asked if the property owners were up to date on their taxes, which Clerk-Treasurer Jaeger commented that there are a few who are delinquent on their property taxes. He then asked what the city would be selling the lots for. The Council said that they will discuss these questions at the study session on February 26, 2026.

Motion by Councilor Towner to approve the clerk-treasurer and the city attorney to send Quit Claim Deeds to the two properties that are willing to convey their properties back to the city and that the owners can file the Quit Claim Deeds at City Hall which the city will pay the deed tax and filing fee, and another letter will be sent to the properties that have not responded on whether they will build or file a Quit Claim Deed.

Supported by Councilor Kealy.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Change Date of Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting

Motion by Councilor Kealy to approve changing the date of the LBAE meeting on April 16, 2026, to April 28, 2026, at 10:00 am.

Supported by Councilor Towner.

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Minnesota Power Scope of Work Request

Motion by Councilor Towner to approve the estimate from Minnesota Power for \$6,500.

Supported by Councilor Teska-Erickson.

Motion carried unanimously.

- D. Appoint Range Association of Municipalities and Schools (RAMS) Board Alternate

Motion by Councilor Towner to appoint Councilor Kealy to serve as the RAMS Board alternate.

Supported by Councilor Teska-Erickson.

Motion carried unanimously. Councilor Kealy abstained.

- E. Pump House Electrical Quote Decision

Motion by Mayor Matthews to direct Trent Pink to get quotes for the pump house electrical issue.

Supported by Councilor Towner.

Decision was made that Public Utility Foreman Pink had already asked for quotes from companies.

Mayor Matthews amended the motion to direct Trent Pink to not exceed \$5,000.

Discussion was had that Pink is not an electrician and labor would also need to be quoted. Councilor Kealy pointed out that this work will need to be completed regardless of cost. Councilor Towner pointed out that the council could call a special meeting if the amount was over a capped amount but that a special meeting needs to be posted for three days.

Mayor Matthews amended the motion to have the work awarded to the lowest bidder.

Councilor Towner amended his support to the Mayor Matthews amended motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

- F. Consider Buhl Economic Authority Appointment

Motion by Mayor Matthews to appoint Stuart Lehman to serve as Commissioner on the Buhl Economic Development Authority with a term of six years.

Supported by Councilor Teska-Erickson.

Motion carried unanimously.

G. Consider Long Range Planning and Zoning Commission Appointments

Motion by Councilor Kealy to appoint Councilor Loeffler to the Long Range Planning and Zoning Commission, with a term that expires December 31, 2028.

Supported by Councilor Teska-Erickson.

Motion carried unanimously.

H. Consider Library Board Member Appointments

Motion by Councilor Kealy to appoint Cheryl Smilanich and Kristine Conger to serve as Library Board members with a term of office each of three years and expiring December 31, 2028.

Supported by Councilor Towner.

Motion carried unanimously.

9. COUNCILORS' COMMENTS:

Councilor Kealy:

Councilor Kealy recommended that a cell phone be purchased for on-call weekend work. That way the Chisholm Police Department will know to call the cell phone and whoever in the city is on-call that weekend would be the one being contacted. The council suggested adding this as a discussion to the study session on February 26, 2026.

The Senior Center will not have a senior meal this month.

Thank you to St. Louis County for letting the Buhl Curling Club host their Bonspiel. There were 12 teams that were from across northern MN and it was fun and went very well.

February 21st the Buhl Curling Club will host its next Bonspiel for Fireman's Relief Fund.

Councilor Loeffler:

Councilor Loeffler participated in the Bonspiel over the weekend at the Buhl Curling Club and had a great time. She also stated that her coworkers had an amazing time and a team from Duluth couldn't believe that Buhl had this facility.

The Rusty Rock Guild on March 1st is hosting a Suncatcher class at the Buhl Library. You can sign up for it at rustyrockguild@gmail.com

Councilor Towner:

Councilor Towner would like to remind the public that Winter Frolic is on Sunday February 15, 2026, from 3pm-5pm at the skating rink. There will be games and hot cocoa.

10. MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

The mayor thanked the city crew and volunteers for their hard work remedying the water tower issue. Thank you to all who helped!

Good thing the Bonspiel didn't happen a day later! We will put a bandage on the electrical for now and get it fixed as soon as possible.

11. ADJOURN:

Motion by Councilor Teska-Erickson to adjourn.

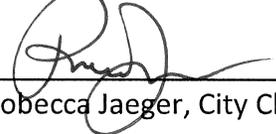
Supported by Councilor Loeffler.

Motion carried on unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.



James Matthews, Mayor

ATTEST:



Rebecca Jaeger, City Clerk-Treasurer