

**MINUTES**  
**BUHL CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**4/7/2026**

Tuesday, April 7, 2026,

6:30 P.M.

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

**2. ROLL CALL:**

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

Also present was Police Chief Vukad, City Engineer Jamnick, Utilities Foreman Pink, and Clerk-Treasurer Jaeger.

**3. PUBLIC HEARING:**

**Motion by Councilor Towner to open the public hearing at 6:31 p.m.**

**Supported by Councilor Loeffler.**

**Motion passes unanimously.**

A. Ordinance 26-02 An Ordinance of the City of Buhl to Regulate Vacant Lot(s) in the Stubler Pit and Damian II Additions

The Vacant Lot Ordinance allows the city to regulate the empty lots in the Stubler Pit and Damian II Additions. Instead of having to convey the lots back to the city, after 24 months the owners will pay a registration fee annually until their dwellings are built.

**Motion by Mayor Matthews to schedule a public hearing for the second read of the Stubler Pit and Damian Vacant Lot Ordinance for April 21, 2026, at 6:30 pm before the scheduled Council Meeting.**

Councilor Kealy asked if wording should be added stating that the council has the right to raise the price of the registration fee. This would be so the owners of the lot would know that the fee could change.

Councilor Towner stated that the Ordinance should reference the fee schedule.

Mayor Matthews asked for clarification of what was being asked, that additional language needed to be added stating to check the fee schedule?

Councilor Towner stated that it could be clearer for the owners if additional verbiage was added.

Councilor Kealy stated that she doesn't want the owners to be confused.

Clerk Jaeger stated that a copy of the Vacant Lot Ordinance will be given to an owner when a lot is purchased along with the covenants for the addition.

Councilor Towner stated that a copy of the fee schedule should also be attached.

Councilor Towner asked about G (2) regarding delinquent fees. Will this be an additional charge?

Clerk Jaeger stated that the council can set a registration fee and an additional delinquent fee. They could be kept as separate fees in case the council wants to change only one instead of both at a time.

Councilor Towner stated that a \$1500 delinquent fee on top of a \$1500 registration fee seems like an excessive amount.

Councilor Kealy agreed, stating that a percentage could be charged.

Councilor Towner asked if there were any state laws that limit the amount that can be charged.

Clerk Jaeger stated that the fee schedule was going to be added to an upcoming schedule for the council to go over. At that point the registration fee and delinquent fee for the Stubler Pit and Damian II additions would be set also.

Mayor Mattews asked the council if they wanted to see any of the Ordinance verbiage changed.

Councilor Towner and Kealy agreed that the wording does not to be changed as long as the fees are reflected on the fee schedule.

Clerk Jaeger stated that she would look at the state statutes to see if there was anything limiting delinquent fees.

**Supported by Councilor Loeffler.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

No public comment was made.

**Motion by Councilor Kealy to close the public hearing at 6:39 p.m.**

**Supported by Councilor Towner.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Motion by Councilor Teska-Erickson to approve the agenda.**

**Supported by Councilor Towner.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

## **5. REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

### Utilities Foreman Pink

Utilities Foreman Pink stated that Spring Cleanup will be starting soon. He also stated that the city crew has been busy cleaning up any damage created by plowing and sanding. Foreman Pink also stated that he has built a brine mixer that will help optimize dust control application within the city.

Mayor Matthews told Foreman Pink thank you for representing the City of Buhl at the Minnesota Rural Water Association's taste testing.

### City Engineer Jamnick

Engineer Jamnick stated that he had received a letter from the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on April 1, 2026, about the underground storage water tank and the historical review process. SHPO suggested the city talk with Kevin from USDA Rural Development (RD). The USDA suggested having a conference call on April 17<sup>th</sup> to move into the next step and define the role of the USDA and what they will be funding.

Engineer Jamnick stated the letter from SHPO contained what was expected. They talked about a new storage water tank and referenced City Hall and the Library.

Mayor Matthews stated that it looked like good news since they are dropping the archeological aspect of the review.

Engineer Jamnick said that SHPO is going to focus on the water tower aspect of the project.

### Police Chief Vukad

Chief Vukad greeted the council by saying, "Good evening, Mr. Mayor and Council, it is a privilege to be here as always." Chief Vukad stated that the Police Department tries to be as informative as they can regarding the monthly police reports and if there is anything the council would like to add to the monthly list, please let them know.

Chief Vukad stated the call volume for last year for the City of Buhl, was around 580 calls. As of the first quarter of this year there were 190 calls and 270 hours of police coverage. The police department tries to work between three and four hours per shift. To compare to the City of Chisholm there were about 6,600 calls.

Chief Vukad stated the Police Department had just gotten approval to initiate their part-time Community Service Officers. The officers will assist with blight, parking, Ordinance enforcement, and daily duties throughout the summer months. These officers will be from law enforcement schools. Chief Vukad stated that it has been a successful tool. Chief Vukad stated that every law enforcement entity in the Nation is shorthanded right now and not a lot of people want to do this job. Chief Vukad stated that we want all the people we can get, and they are finding creative ways to fill positions, which is used as a recruitment tool.

Chief Vukad stated that it is blight season and blight sweeps will be starting the week of May 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be flyers being posted around the city to inform the public. Chief Vukad stated that the main goal is compliance. We want people to understand that there is a legal process and asked for the citizens' patience while they work through those processes. Chief Vukad asked the citizens to please reach out with any questions or concerns.

There have been questions about stray animals. Since the City of Buhl does not have a contract with an animal shelter or group. This puts the police department and citizens in a unique scenario. Chief Vukad suggested calling the police department if a stray pet has been found. Precious Paws unfortunately cannot take stray animals unless it is an emergency situation. Chief Vukad directed citizens to the Precious Paws website [www.pphsc.com](http://www.pphsc.com) where there are helpful resources to help with stray pets. Chief Vukad stated that he appreciates the citizens' patience when dealing with situations involving stray pets.

Citizen Cheryl Kivi asked Chief Vukad if the officers are still writing tickets for calendar parking when the weather has been nicer. Mrs. Kivi stated that when she walks around the town, she notices cars are parked on both sides of the street during calendar parking. In particular, on Robert's Street there is a huge trailer that has not changed sides of the street.

Chief Vukad stated that they try to prioritize the seriousness of calls and operations beyond that. Because of prioritization parking may not be enforced on every shift. Chief Vukad stated that they try to make a good effort to stay consistent with enforcement of calendar parking. If a vehicle is hindering traffic or a snowplow, those things would be higher prioritized and would be addressed sooner or faster. Chief Vukad stated that they don't always see everything and they are allowed to have discretion about certain situations. If there are any concerns, please contact the police department.

Mrs. Kivi asked Chief Vukad if the police ticket people parked on the sidewalks.

Chief Vukad stated that yes, they do and they will also tow those vehicles.

Mrs. Kivi stated that there has been a truck parked on the sidewalk by the Senior Center and it was parked there for quite some time. Mrs. Kivi stated that she was not sure if it even had been ticketed.

Chief Vukad stated that the owner had been cited multiple times. Chief Vukad also stated that this goes back to what he said earlier that the public is not always aware of what the police do.

Mrs. Kivi stated that the trailer on Robert St. is large and is taking up a large portion of the roadway.

Chief Vukad stated that he will take a look at it.

Fire Chief Lehman

Chief Lehman stated that there were thirty-three calls in 2025 and there have been six calls in 2026.

Chief Lehman stated that he has participated in the two Collaborative Facility meetings between Kinney, Great Scott Township, and the City of Buhl and a joint fire department will be happening sooner than later. The next meeting will be held June 3, 2026, at the Great Scott Township Hall in Kinney.

Clerk Jaeger

Clerk Jaeger stated that roller skating at the Community Center is scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays of June and July. Roller Skating Rentals LLC would be open to other days also if it is going well. Clerk Jaeger stated that she told them that the city would start with Fridays and see how it goes.

Clerk Jaeger stated that BEDA approved going with Munibit for the new city website. The current website will redirect people to the new site, and the new site should be up and running soon.

Clerk Jaeger stated that the Sewer District would like the city to be aware that the lift station had a lot of grease build-up in it. This will be \$8,000 in cost for cleanup. The sewer district will pay for the cleanup this time but will pass the cost on to Buhl for any further grease issues. They are asking the city to talk with the businesses in town. Clerk Jaeger was wondering if there is a city Ordinance on dumping grease and requiring businesses to clean out grease traps?

Councilor Towner stated that he believes there is an Ordinance about dumping grease down drains.

Mayor Matthews stated that it is important to find out if this was due to a business, or an accumulation from residents.

Utilities Foreman Pink stated that it is not just coming from businesses but an accumulation of businesses and residents.

Mayor Matthews asked if this is an unusual accumulation of grease buildup or is this expected over a period of time?

Clerk Jaeger stated that this was an unusual buildup of grease.

Foreman Pink stated that he had checked buhl's lift stations and the city does not normally have grease issues. The city's lift stations will be cleaned this week. Foreman Pink stated that he had checked the lift stations that morning and wanted to remind the council that the city also runs Kinney and Ziegler's through the city's lift stations.

Mayor Matthews asked the citizens and the businesses to please not dump grease down the drains.

Councilor Kealy sent a message to the Sewer District during the conversation and the Sewer District stated that this is a new issue.

## 6. CITIZENS FORUM:

Citizen Melody Staffaroni stated that for weeks the Buhl citizens have been told to call 911 for any utility's emergencies. Ms. Staffaroni stated that she had a power outage and called 911 but the 911 dispatcher told her to call Minnesota Power instead. Ms. Staffaroni then stated that the Chisholm police called her wondering what her emergency was and they told her she needed to call Minnesota Power. Ms. Staffaroni stated that this needs to be worked out so the citizens know who to call.

Utilities Foreman Pink stated that he will follow up with dispatch.

## 7. CONSENT AGENDA:

### A. Minutes:

- i. Regular Council Meeting March 17, 2026
- ii. Special Council Meeting March 24, 2026

### B. Claims

i. Payroll #6	\$16,104.78
ii. Payroll #3	\$ 2,475.00
iii. Payroll #7	\$15,691.07
iv. A/P #1	\$ 135.30
v. A/P #2	<u>\$87,089.66</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$121,495.81</b>

**Motion by Councilor Towner to approve the consent agenda with the removal of the \$42.14 expense claim and an adjusted total of \$121,453.67.**

**Supported by Councilor Kealy.**

Councilor Towner asked for clarification regarding the claim for property taxes on the newly conveyed property at 102 Stubler drive. Councilor Towner stated that the council had talked about paying the 2026 property taxes for the conveyed properties but was wondering if approval was needed going forward.

Clerk Jaeger stated that a motion should be made.

**Mayor Matthews motioned to pay the 2026 property taxes on the Stubler Pit and Damian II Aditions that are conveyed back to the city.**

**Supported by Councilor Towner.**

**Motion passes unanimously.**

**Motion to approve consent agenda passes unanimously.**

## **8. NEW BUSINESS:**

### A. Real Estate Agents

#### i. Tim Renskers with Village Realty

Realtor Tim Renskers presented to the council on marketing the Stubler Pit and Damian II Addition lots. Mr. Renskers stated that he was familiar with the lots and has limited marketing on the lots so far. He believes the value to be \$1.00 a square foot with the lots ranging from 16,000-27,000 square feet. Mr. Renskers stated that the fee to market the lots would be \$2,800 per lot, which would be split between the listing and selling agencies. Mr. Renskers recommends a 4x8 signage depicting the lots layouts to be erected at 203 Monroe Drive for maximum visibility. A smaller sign directing traffic from 169 would also be recommended for placement. The cost of the signs would be split equally between Village Realty and the City of Buhl. Mr. Renskers also stated that the listing contract would be in effect for one year with an extension upon mutual agreement.

Mayor Matthews stated that it sounded like a good business plan and noted that there was mention that lot pricing would be adjusted due to lot buildability.

Mr. Renskers stated that there were a few lots that had topographical or wetland issues that could reduce the price of the lots. Mr. Renskers also mentioned that the city had discussed combining parcel numbers for the lots that could affect pricing.

Mr. Renskers recommends going over each lot individually to establish effective square footage and the applicable price per square foot for each lot. The listing prices would then be set for each lot. Preparing signage and advertising for the lots and preparing a listing contract between Village Realty and the City of Buhl that outlines the duties and expectations.

Councilor Towner asked what the possible cost of signage would be.

Mr. Renskers stated that the yard type signage would be provided by Village Realty. The custom 4x8 sign would be around \$500 plus an erection cost that would be split equally between Village Realty and the City of Buhl.

#### ii. Trent Carda with Mirabella Realty

Mr. Carda was not able to attend the meeting in person but sent a detailed email to present his proposal of his Broker Price Opinion (BPO).

Mr. Carda would charge \$2,000 (\$250/per BPO) to be paid upon completion and delivery. Mr. Carda would do an individual BPO for each lot for accuracy. Mr. Carda would ask for a commission of \$1,500 per property which he would subtract the \$250 paid for the BPO, which would total \$1,250. Mr. Carda recommends listing the properties for one year. Mr. Carda would also cover the cost of signage.

Mayor Matthews stated that the email was detailed enough but a bit more complex than the straightforward approach of Mr. Renskers.

**Motion by Mayor Matthews to enter into a contractual agreement with Village Realty to represent the sale of the properties that the city is going to list.**

**Supported by Councilor Towner for discussion.**

Councilor Towner and Councilor Kealy both commented that there are significant savings in Mirabella's proposal.

Councilor Towner mentioned both realty options have great realtors to work with.

Councilor Kealy mentioned that Mirabella Realty would pay for the signage of the lots.

Councilor Towner stated that Village Realty's cost states that if they do not sell a lot, they would not be paid for it but if Mirabella Realty did not sell a lot, they would still charge \$250 for the BPO.

Councilor Towner and Councilor Kealy both agreed they were not ready yet to make a decision on a realtor.

Mayor Matthews stated that a decision will need to be made soon.

**Motion failed and will be tabled until a further meeting.**

**B. Approve Buhl Business Block Plat Change**

BEDA has approved a plat change to the Buhl Business Block. BEDA has sent it to the City Council for approval.

**Motion by Mayor Matthes to approve the Buhl Business Block plat change and direct staff to file it with St. Louis County.**

**Supported by Councilor Kealy.**

Mayor Matthews stated that the important part of this is that BEDA has the funds available to approve this and make some of these lots saleable. Mayor Matthews also stated that there has been interest in some of the lots, but they are not depicted correctly on the St. Louis County Land Explorer.

**Motion passes unanimously.**

C. Spring Cleanup

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.

The 2026 program has been planned and scheduled.

Dates for the 2026 event are June 8 - 11.

Residents must contact City Hall and be placed on a list to have **ANY** items (no charge and charge) picked up. Items which have a pick-up charge **MUST** be paid for at City Hall by 11:00 a.m. on June 5, or they **WILL NOT** be picked up.

There is no charge for:

White goods (with certain limitations);  
Tires (maximum of eight (8) tires at no charge);  
Automobile batteries; and  
Used oil.

Charges apply for:

Box springs/mattresses;  
Furniture;  
Carpeting; and  
TVs and computer monitors.

**NO demolition or yard waste will be accepted!**

Councilor Towner asked Utilities Foreman Pink if there was a maximum size of tires that can be brought to the dump.

Foreman Pink stated that he would look into it.

Councilor Towner wanted to remind the public that the city has large dumpsters for rent. These are helpful for spring cleaning.

Councilor Teska-Erickson asked if the price was still \$60 for a dumpster rental.

Clerk Jaeger stated that yes, it is \$60 for rental of the dumpster, and you are able to keep the dumpster until it is filled.

**Informational only.**

D. Hire Summer Beach Attendants

The city desires additional labor services over the summer months to assist in maintaining the attractiveness of the community.

Specifically, the city wants to hire summer beach attendants for duties at Stubler Pit.

**Motion by Councilor Teska-Erickson to authorize staff to publicly post and publish a Notice of Advertisement for 2026 Summer Beach Attendants.**

**Supported by Councilor Loeffler.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

E. Hire Street Department Summer Help

The city desires additional labor services over the summer months to assist in maintaining the attractiveness of the community.

Specifically, the city wants to hire summer street labor for Public Works Department activities, including lawn mowing, weed trimming, and other light duties.

**Motion by Councilor Towner to authorize staff to publicly post and publish a Notice of Advertisement for 2026 Public Works Department Summer Street Labor positions.**

**Supported by Councilor Kealy.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

Clerk Jaeger asked the council if they would like to set a wage for the summer help employees.

Mayor Matthews stated that the city had trouble finding people to work the Beach Attendant shifts and is wondering if that has to do with the wages.

Councilor Kealy stated that the city does give a .50 cent incentive to those who come back to work for the city each summer.

Mayor Matthews stated that having lifeguard experience is a skill and the beach attendants are also babysitters watching the youth at the beach.

Councilor Teska-Erickson also mentioned that they have to also talk to adults, which is hard to do as an adolescent.

Mayor Matthews recommends adding the discussion of summer help wages to the next agenda.

F. Set Cleaning Person Wage for Community Center

Clerk Jaeger stated that she had forgotten at a previous meeting the council discussed reacting to offers and not posting a specific wage.

Councilor Towner stated that the city has posted for the position and we should just wait to see what they offer first.

Mayor Matthews agreed that the city should just react to the offers.

Councilor Teska-Erickson asked what the charge is for renting the Community Center.

Clerk Jaeger stated \$200.

Councilor Kealy stated that it has been the wage for a lone time.

Clerk Jaeger stated that she would like to add the fee schedule to an upcoming agenda.

**No motion made.**

G. LMCIT Liability Waiver

The City receives insurance coverage, including liability coverage, from the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust (LMCIT).

Members who obtain liability coverage from LMCIT must decide whether to waive the statutory tort liability limits to the extent of the coverage purchased.

The decision to waive or not to waive the statutory tort limits must be made annually by the member's governing body.

It is in the best interests of the City **NOT TO WAIVE** the statutory tort limits.

**Recommendation is that the City does not waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by Minn. Stat. § 466.04.**

**Motion by Councilor Towner that the City of Buhl to not waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability for LMCIT Liability Coverage for 2026-2027 as established by Minn. Stat. § 466.04.**

**Supported by Councilor Loeffler.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

H. Resolution 26-23 Resolution Accepting a Donation to the City

Super One Foods of Hibbing donated a \$25 gift card to the Rec Board for the Rec Board's Easter Egg Hunt Event.

**Motion by Councilor Teska-Erikson to approve Resolution 26-23 A Resolution Accepting a Donation to the City.**

**Supported by Councilor Kealy.**

**Motion passes unanimously.**

I. Resolution 26-24 Resolution Accepting a Donation to the City

Walmart Super Center of Mt. Iron donated a \$50 gift card to the Rec Board for the Rec Board's Easter Egg Hunt Event.

**Motion by Councilor Kealy to approve Resolution 26-24 A Resolution Accepting a Donation to the City.**

**Supported by Councilor Towner.**

J. Hiring Owen Lamere to the Buhl Fire Department

**Motion by Councilor Teska-Erickson to approve hiring Owen Lamere as a volunteer Firefighter for the City of Buhl.**

**Supported by Councilor Towner.**

Councilor Kealy stated that Mr. Lamere lives north of Nashwauk, so that is a good distance away from the city but falls within the realm of Buhl Fire Departments bylaws of a thirty-minute response time. Councilor Kealy stated that this would allow another individual into the fire department.

Councilor Kealy had previously asked if Mr. Lamere could be in the fire department while being a city employee. It was pointed out that the union contract stated that the union employees could be on both. Councilor Kealy wants to point out that the contract states how they will be paid if they were in the fire department and not if they can be on it.

Councilor Kealy stated that the city has not paid their employees correctly if they also worked for the fire department. Councilor Kealy stated that the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) stated that you can give the employees a choice of how they are paid. The employees that go on after-hour fire calls that are above their forty-hour work week could have an overtime situation. These employees would be considered to hold two jobs for the city and their hours worked would be added together. Councilor Kealy stated that the city is able to pay the employees at their

regular rate and time and a half for any time worked over forty hours or the city can create a weighted average for those employees.

Clerk Jaeger stated that she would speak with LMC and the city attorney because she is aware of other cities that do not pay overtime to their employees who are also paid-on-call fireman.

Retired Firefighter Ted Erickson asked Councilor Kealy if what she is explaining references full-time versus volunteer firefighters.

Councilor Kealy stated that it states volunteer firefighters.

Mr. Erickson stated that in the past the Fire Department employees have not been considered city employees.

Councilor Teska-Erickson agreed with that statement.

Mr. Erickson stated that they are not included in anything for the city like the Christmas party.

Clerk Jaeger stated that for ESST that is how the state sees volunteer fire fighters and that is why they do not qualify for ESST.

Mr. Erickson also stated that it is great to have someone in town for an eight-hour shift that can go on calls.

Councilor Kealy agreed that it is great to have coverage at that time, but Mr. Lamere wouldn't be able to respond in a timely manner to other calls.

Councilor Teska-Erickson stated that the Fire Department needed to open the response time up to thirty minutes because they were not getting residents in Buhl to join and help respond to calls. Councilor Teska-Erickson said she has been trying to retire for the last five years but hasn't been able to because there are not enough people in the department.

Councilor Kealy asked Councilor Teska-Erickson how the Fire Department tries to get volunteers besides at council meetings.

Councilor Teska-Erickson stated that they have had open houses, they have put notices in the Library Newsletter, and word of mouth.

Fire Chief Lehman said that a full roster is 22 people and they have 14. He also stated that it seems like no one wants to join anymore.

Clerk Jaeger stated that this is an issue across the state.

Councilor Kealy stated that it is a good idea to have someone available during the daytime 8-hour shift but there are other issues to. The distance Mr. Lamere has to drive for calls, meetings, and training.

Councilor Teska-Erickson stated that a lot of the volunteers work during the day and their jobs don't allow them to leave during a shift to go on a call. Councilor Teska-Mr. Erickson stated that "they have to take who they have to take right now" because the Fire Department is struggling.

Chief Lehman stated that it would be nice to get clarification on the wages for the city employee volunteers and when the Buhl and Kinney/Great Scott Fire Departments combine things might be different.

Councilor Kealy asked Chief Lehman if they would have different bylaws.

Chief Lehman stated that yes, they will have different bylaws because they will be a different entity.

Chief Lehman asked who the Fire Department would fall under.

Clerk Jaeger stated that it would fall under Buhl because it is the bigger entity.

Mr. Erickson stated that since it takes some time for background checks and things to go through, he recommends not waiting to hire Mr. Lamere.

Mayor Matthews stated that he agrees.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

K. Approve JPJ Invoices

Approval of invoices for work in the Damian Addition Phase III, Buhl Business Park, and Water Tower Site Improvements.

**Motion by Councilor Towner to approve JPJ Invoice 7 for work done in the Damian Addition Phase III in the amount of \$1,000, to approve JPJ Invoice 9 for work done in the Buhl Business Park in the amount of \$3,950, and to approve JPJ Invoice 1 for work done for the Water Tower Site Improvements in the amount of \$15,607.**

**Supported by Councilor Kealy.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**9. COUNCILORS COMMENTS:**

Councilor Loeffler

Councilor Loeffler stated that the Rusty Rock Guild was hosting a wooden art project at the Buhl Library at 1-3pm on April 12, 2026.

Councilor Loeffler stated that she heard wonderful things about the Easter egg hunt. It's lovely that the Rec Board does that.

## Councilor Towner

Council Towner wanted to thank everyone that braved the weather for the Easter egg hunt. The kids had a good time!

### **10. MAYOR'S COMMENTS:**

Mayor Matthews stated that the city has been talking about combining services between Buhl, Kinney, and Great Scott Township. Mayor Matthews wanted to comment on the Collaborative Facility Minutes from the April 1, 2026, meeting. The City of Buhl has discussed the idea of joining city buildings with Great Scott Township, but it has not officially been discussed at a council meeting. Mayor Matthews recommends having the council meet soon to discuss the possibility of joining buildings with Great Scott Township. Mayor Matthews stated that his personal opinion is that he does not like the idea of combining government offices at a different location than the current City Hall. Mayor Matthews is asking for a council member to make a motion to add this topic to an upcoming agenda for discussion. Mayor Matthews also suggested having a public hearing to get input from the citizens of Buhl. Mayor Matthews stated that the Collaborative Facility meetings have been primarily focused on discussion on joining fire services, and consolidating municipal equipment other than fire, and emergency medical services. Mayor Matthews stated that a councilor should motion for a meeting to keep the transparency for the residents.

Councilor Kealy asked if the collaborative facilities were part of the Comprehensive Plan.

Mayor Matthews said that no it had never been discussed.

Councilor Kealy asked if we had received the Comprehensive Plan yet.

Mayor Matthews stated that it should be completed by May.

Clerk Jaeger stated that the discussion of the collaborative facilities happened after the discussion of the Comprehensive Plan.

Councilor Towner stated that the first Collaborative Facility meeting was in January of 2026.

Councilor Loeffler stated that ARDC had mentioned having another public hearing in December.

Mayor Matthews stated that it didn't happen and the city will probably only have a presentation from ARDC on what their findings are.

Councilor Towner stated that at the Collaborative Facility meeting on April 1, 2026, he gave an update, and unless he misspoke, he remembers the council discussion during the February Working Session discussing combining city offices.

The council agreed that combining city offices was discussed.

Councilor Towner stated that at the Collaborative Facility meeting he gave an update stating that the Fire Department would be a part of the collaborative facilities, most likely public works because there are so many buildings that they are stretched between, and a possibility of City Hall. Councilor Towner stated that the council should put all of the options on the table and see what the budget is like. Councilor Towner apologized if he misspoke at the meeting and had not

had a chance to read the minutes yet. Councilor Towner mentioned if the meeting Minutes made it sound like it was a for sure thing for the city offices to combine, that was not deliberate.

Mayor Matthews stated that he believes that all comments were well intended.

Clerk Jaeger stated that Great Scott Township had a meeting the night before and Supervising Chair Judy Wahlberg and supervisor Lisa Kvas were in attendance and gave an update on the Collaborative Facility meeting. Chair Wahlberg had mentioned that the City of Buhl had not met as a council to discuss what all departments would be combining with Great Scott Township nor made any motions on the subject.

Mayor Matthews stated that the clarification is important but that it had not been known to the residents of Buhl at this time.

Mayor Matthews commented that he wants to stay ahead of any rumors that could start.

Councilor Towner read from the Collaborative Facility Meeting Minutes “Randy informed the group that a working session was held with Buhl City Council members in February where discussions were held regarding how Buhl might like to participate in the new facility. He mentioned that the city seems confident that they would like to relocate the fire department there if they decide to combine, include their public works department, and quite possibly move the two city offices into the new facility, as well” (1).

Mayor Matthews stated that this has not been presented to the public in general and the council needs to be fully transparent on what is being discussed to stave off any rumors about the project.

Mayor Matthews stated that it would be a good idea to meet as a council to discuss the possibilities of collaborative facilities, and the discussion should be added to an upcoming agenda. Mayor Matthews stated that the council can then pass their answer on to the building committee.

Clerk Jaeger asked the council if they would like to have a working session to discuss the topic and go over ideas.

Councilor Towner stated that the council had previously talked about having the departments come together to discuss what the departments would need and then it can also be discussed if the city offices should be included.

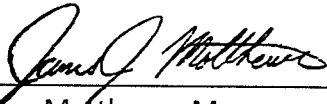
Mayor Matthews stated that the combination of the fire department, EMS, and public works is not a political issue and no one should take a negative foothold on it because it is a good financial decision. Mayor Matthews stated that the government offices could become a political issue. Mayor Matthews again stated that this discussion should be added to an upcoming agenda to update the public on the matter. Mayor Matthews stated that these are his thoughts.

## **11. ADJOURN:**

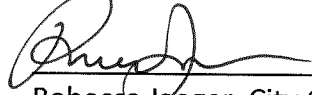
**Motion by Councilor Towner to adjourn.**

Supported by Councilor Kealy.

Motion passes unanimously and meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James Matthews, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rebecca Jaeger, City Clerk-Treasurer