

**CITY OF BUFFALO CITY REGULAR MEETING-
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2016-MUNICIPAL BUILDING – 7:00PM**

The Regular meeting of the City of Buffalo City Common Council was called to order by Mayor Russ Lorenz at 7:00 p.m. Roll call: Kevin Mack, Ben Holien, Brach Seitz and Lisa Schuh. Also present City Superintendent Stan Meier; citizens Greg Jencen, Linda Hesch and Jeannie Czaplewski. The meeting was held as noticed. Motion Mack , second Schuh to approve minutes from the January regular meeting. All yes, motion carried.

Citizens: Linda Hesch addressed the board about the plowing so far this winter. She questioned how often plowing was done, when and why it was not done. Also wondering why more salt or sand is not used in the City regularly. Lorenz gave Hesch a copy of the City's plowing policy that states the north/south streets will be plowed with priority. The policy also states that plowing should not occur for snow falls totaling less than two inches. Lorenz told Hesch the City has one full time employee, a part time employee that works no more than 15 hours per week regularly and an on-call part-time person that was just hired to help with plowing. Hesch said after the first warm up and freeze there were large frozen ruts in the streets. Seitz told her if the plows would have plowed all the slush at that time it would have frozen in a large edge along the street causing more problems. Hesch said she was happy with the plowing and sanding done in the past week. Seitz told her that residents need to understand they only need to drive a half block east or west to get to a north/south street that is maintained per guidelines. He also emphasized that the speed limit is 25 mph in the City so if people are sliding through intersections they may need to slow down. When a comparison was made to the streets in Cochrane, council added that Cochrane maybe has 3 or so miles of streets as opposed to the 18 miles in Buffalo City so it's not really a comparable job. Lorenz agreed with Hesch that everyone, including the council, wants the streets in good driving condition, and that the council is doing the best they can with the budget they have. Jeannie Czaplewski introduced herself to the council. Czaplewski has filed papers to be a write-in candidate in the Spring Election for the council seat left open by Seitz. Czaplewski said she and her husband have owned their Spring Lake home since 2003, and moved to the home as their permanent residence in the spring of 2015.

Finance: The Council discussed the initial numbers received from Alliance Bank for street project loan options. These are just estimates to give the council an idea of what money they could borrow to take on a large-scale project that would revamp all city streets at one time. The loan options for a \$500,000 loan varied between fixed rates and fixed/adjustable rates with payments from \$111,000 per year to \$75,000 per year. Discussion on the scope of the street project continues. Council will be putting the street project out for bids in the spring with work to be conducted in the summer of 2016. City will receive around \$7,000 state aid for the project this year, but total work has been estimated at \$450,000 to \$500,000. Tim Huebner from Oium Blacktop helped the City create a comprehensive street maintenance plan last fall with all work needed to get the streets up to good working order with the idea that once they are all done a maintenance schedule will be created and used. The loan payment would create a debt service adjustment to be levied over the life of the loan which would create a small increase in tax bills while the loan is being paid off. Jencen told the council he commends them for this plan and thinks all residents should agree that a little extra on their taxes is worth better streets. Mack mentioned that the City may need to use some of this loan money to fund the City's portion of a fire truck being budgeted by Tri-Community Fire Department over the next two budget years. Clerk will have all bid specifications and additional loan options available at the March meeting. Auditors were in the office today. Should be here in March or April with the 2015 City audit report.

Recreation: A rink attendant will be replaced for awhile due to an injury he has.

Public Works: Meier said there have been cars parked on the street in a few locations in the City. Parking on the street not only causes a problem for plows, it is also a safety hazard. Seitz will call them. Meier will also keep some parking reminder pamphlets in his truck to put on cars he sees parked on the streets.

Building Committee: Mack said one permit issued to remodel a former business into a residence with possible use as a commercial operation in the future. Board of Appeals granted two semi parking permits at the January 28th meeting.

Cemetery: Water tower and wind mill have been removed. Riverland has suggested moving the electric meter out of the shed. Seitz estimated the cost to the city between \$600 and \$800. Consensus of the council to leave the meter in the shed. Alma Blooms has given a price of \$24/urn for the trust to beautify graves this summer. Council agreed this price is very reasonable and we didn't get anything close to it the last time we put out bids. Will continue to work with Alma Blooms.

Riverfront: Meier said the black locust trees were removed by the landing. Mack asked if Meier had cut down any of the trees destroyed by beavers. Meier said he had not yet.

Mayor: Personal property list was reviewed by the council. Several names of those who operate businesses in the city were put on a list for the City assessor to review in case they should be charged personal property tax also. Council finished reviewing the zoning ordinance. Discussion on front yard setback of 25 feet. Consensus to leave the setback. If there are problems meeting it that is what the Board of Appeals is for. Discussion on animal ordinance. Animals of husbandry will be added as well as exotic animals. Clerk will also work on adding a section on picking up feces and cat ordinance for review at the March meeting.

Superintendent: Meier said he was approached by Riverland Energy about a gift they receive from other municipalities for putting up and taking down the Christmas lights each year. The City does not pay a fee for this work, but does pay a set rate on street lights each month. Consensus of the Council that a gift is not needed for these workers. Meier said the ambulance love light tree is getting a little tall to decorate. Seitz suggested planting a few new trees so there is a smaller one to decorate.

Motion Holien, second Mack to pay bills. All yes, motion carried.

Motion Mack, second Holien to adjourn meeting. All yes, motion carried.

Jenny Ehlenfeldt, Clerk