

**CITY OF BUFFALO CITY REGULAR MEETING-
MONDAY, OCTOBER 10, 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, Lisa Schuh and Jeannie Czaplowski. Absent – City Superintendent Stan Meier. Also present: City Worker Greg Jencen and Steve Nelson. The meeting was held as noticed. Motion Mack, second Czaplowski to approve minutes from the previous meeting. All yes, motion carried.

Financial: Thrivent Financial Advisor Steve Nelson presented several investment options to the council for the \$127,000 balance of the Cemetery Perpetual Care account. The City is trying to find a safe investment that will pay more than the current CD rates to pay for cemetery upkeep. Council will review the options. Consensus was to wait until January to make an investment decision.

Building: Five permits issued. Holien asked about considering selling the City owned small pieces of land referred to as pies in front of private properties scattered along River Road. Council agreed they would like to consider this more, but the legality of selling the land along with the cost of surveying all parcels would be great.

Riverfront: Holien said Second Street dock may not be in yet this fall. He will keep the council updated. Holien requested the City keep the budget amount for the little league at \$5,000 as it has been for many years. Council discussed other community contributions. Holien said Cochrane has given \$3,500 for the last few years, down from the \$5,000 they used to give. The Little League has requested Town of Belvidere also contribute to the program which includes several families from the township.

Recreation: Financial reports from C-BC were discussed.

Health & Safety: Property clean up warning letter was sent to a resident on 19th Street. Holien said the property owner looks to be cleaning up what was requested. Will check after the Oct. 15th deadline he was given.

Public Works: Meier to begin sweeping up the loose stones from the chip sealing next week. Will be given to anyone requesting it. Any leftover will be taken to BBC.

Mayor: The Mayor and Council signed a letter thanking City Attorney Mike Chambers for his many years of service to the City. Chambers has retired as of October 1. New City Attorney options were discussed. Council received information from the following law firms with regards to possibly contracting as legal representation: O'Flaherty Heim, Egan & Birnbaum; Seifert & Schultz; Loberg Law Office; Kostner, Koslo and Brovold; and Arndt, Buswell and Thorn. Council narrowed the options down to two firms they would like to look into more. Clerk will get more information from Kostner, Koslo and Brovold and the O'Flaherty, Heim, Egan and Birnbaum firms for the November meeting. Assessor bids were received from Kevin Irwin for \$4,500 for the next three years and from Eric Kleven for \$6,200 for 2017, \$6,300 for 2018 and \$6,400 for 2019. One other assessor responded saying he needed more time to put a bid together. Council agreed they would not wait for that bid. Motion Holien, second Mack to approve a contract with Kevin Irwin of Irwin Appraisals for \$4,500 each for 2017, 2018 and 2019. All yes, motion approved. Auditor proposals were discussed. Proposals were received from current auditors Russell and Associates and Bauman Associates. Czaplowski said she has spoken with both auditing firms about options to reduce costs and feels that with some training the clerk can make some of the adjustments that have historically been done by the auditors. After speaking with Bauman, Czaplowski like their offer to train the clerk along with their proposal. Bauman's

proposal was for \$7,700 for 2016 (this includes \$950 to train the clerk), \$7,000 for 2017 and \$7,250 for 2018. Russell and Associates proposal was for \$7,100 for 2016 with an optional \$1,000 to do the current conversions they do now without the clerk doing them; \$7,325 for 2017 and \$7,550 for 2018 if the conversions were all done by the clerk. Council felt a change in auditors could be beneficial. Motion Czaplewski, second Mack to approve a contract with Bauman Associates for \$7,700 for the 2016 audit, including training costs, \$7,000 in 2017 and \$7,250 in 2018. All yes, motion carried.

Clerk: Motion Holien, second Mack to approve the sale of cemetery plot 109 S ½ NEW and 110 N ¼ of N ½ NEW to Sarah and Andrew Kramer. All yes, motion carried. Clerk reminded council the budget planning meeting will be Monday, Oct. 17 at 6pm.

Motion Mack, second Czaplewski to pay bills. All yes, motion carried. Motion Holien, second Schuh to adjourn meeting. All yes, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Jenny Ehlenfeldt, Clerk