

**CITY OF BUFFALO CITY REGULAR MEETING-
MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2020-MUNICIPAL BUILDING – 7:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the City of Buffalo City Common Council was called to order by Mayor Kevin Mack at 7 p.m. Roll call: Jeannie Czaplewski, Larry Johansen, George Fuller and Niki Secrist. Citizens present: Al Kochenderfer, Ron Olson, Crystal Ganz, Greg Jencen and JB Bremer. Also present: City Superintendent Stan Meier.

Motion Czaplewski, second Johansen to approve minutes from the previous meetings. All yes, motion carried.

Mayor addressed the council about recent negative publications distributed by Scenic Valley Emergency Medical Services. Mack said he feels the communications put out were very unfair, and misleading. He would like an apology from SVEMS for the statement made that the municipalities are not supporting their local ambulance which is completely untrue.

Citizens Concerns – Kochenderfer asked to move the meeting to the community room to follow social distancing. Meeting was moved to the community room.

Finance Committee-

Discussed 2021 ambulance contract with Scenic Valley Emergency Medicals Services. Mack asked if there was a contract for \$10/capita to sign. Kochenderfer presented the council with a petition stating they wanted the municipalities to support on call pay signed by 121 Buffalo City residents. Mack asked if the service was aware that the boards approved the \$10/capita increase for SVEMS. Olson said he was aware but did not bring that contract. The organization voted to go for the \$2/on call and ask for the total of \$27.50/capita. Financials were discussed, some of which Kochenderfer informed the council were not public and not going to be provided. Kochenderfer told the council the only way the service will continue to operate is if they get the \$27.50/capita contract amount. Council questioned why they could not operate on a smaller increase and work out the on call details how they see fit and possibly using some of their reserve funds. He said that was not an option. Council asked to work out an agreement at possibly \$1/hour on call or look at other options that wouldn't be such a significant increase and burden on the municipalities, but Kochenderfer said the service refuses to offer any other contract. After much discussion, Mack told the representatives there that the council would not sign a \$27.50 contract tonight and would need to discuss further.

Council moved back into council chambers for remainder of meeting.

Motion Johansen, second Secrist to approve the 2020 Mill Rate at 22.76/thousand. All yes, motion carried.

Public Works – Discussed possible carryover of superintendent vacation hours depending on weather. Superintendent will take his remaining vacation at the end of the year but will be on call in case snow plowing is needed.

Recreation Committee – Discussion on skating rink season. Masks will be required in the warming house and council can always revisit regulations of any conditions change. Motion Czaplewski, second Fuller to approve hiring Ella Arneson, Aiyanna Johansen, Lauren Abramson and Lindsey Peterson as attendants for this year's skating rink season at a rate of \$8.50/hour. All yes, motion carried.

Building Committee – Three permits issued this month.

Health & Safety Committee- Johansen stopped at 9th Street property. Tried to talk to moving more things off the property. Will keep in contact with the owners. Unlicensed vehicle list made by superintendent – clerk will send warning letters.

Riverfront Committee- Mack would like the tree cutters to possibly cut some beaver trees on the riverfront this week since we have a little left in the 2020 budget for it.

Mayor – Committee met and interviewed three candidates. Recommend hiring Jason Gleiter. Motion Czaplewski, second Secrist to hire Gleiter at \$14.50 with review at 90 days with possible increase to \$15. All yes, motion carried. Discussed 2020 Budget adjustments. Motion Czaplewski, second Johansen to move \$10,000 excess 2020 revenue into machinery fund to use in the future to pay for the drilling of the new municipal building well that is being required by the DNR due to high nitrate levels. All yes, motion carried. Discussed selling city lots. After discussion, decided to start by having the 6th Street Market place area surveyed and put up for sale. Council will look at selling other properties as well as more riverfront triangle properties in the future.

Clerk/Treasurer – Motion Johansen, second Fuller to approve sale of columbarium niche (AE3-5) to Thompson; cemetery plot 129 S ½ of N ½ and 129 N ½ of S ½ to Frank; and plot 119 S ½ to Brown. All yes, motion carried.

Other Discussion - Discussed the SVEMS contract. Went back to the Finance Committee agenda item Approve 2021 Contract with SVEMS. Council considering signing a \$27.50/capita contract with strongly worded letter that the municipality did not appreciate being backed into a corner with the misinformation put out by SVEMS. Consensus all citizens would want municipalities to do whatever it takes to keep service working for the community. Will give it one year for the service to prove that the \$2 on call pay will help them recruit new members and keep their schedule full all the time. Council would like to make an addendum to the contract that includes specific criteria the service must meet before reconsidering a contract for the following year.

Motion Fuller, second Johansen to reimburse Scenic Valley Emergency Medical Services the \$2/hour on call pay for 2021 up to \$27.50/capita paid quarterly based on the actual on call hours covered with an addendum to the contract stating the municipalities' specific requirements. All yes, motion carried.

Motion Czaplewski second Johansen to pay bills. All yes, motion carried. Motion Czaplewski second Johansen to adjourn. All yes, motion carried.

Kevin Mack, Mayor

Jenny Ehlenfeldt, Clerk

_____ date approved