

**CITY OF BUFFALO CITY REGULAR MEETING-
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2020-MUNICIPAL BUILDING – 7:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the City of Buffalo City Common Council was called to order by Mayor Russ Lorenz at 7 p.m. Roll call: Jeannie Czaplewski and Larry Johansen. Absent: Ben Holien and Kevin Mack. Citizen present: Ron Olson, Crystal Ganz, Mason Geiger, Carol Burmeister and Diane Speltz.

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

Citizens - Discussion with Scenic Valley Emergency Medicine Director Ron Olson. Olson reported there were 96 runs in 2019, 12 non transports and a few very tough calls for the EMTs. Current roster has 11 EMTs and 8 drivers. Olson said the service is considering going to a \$2/hour on call pay to try to get more EMTs and shifts covered. The pay would increase the per capita fee for the 2020 contract to \$27.50. Current contract fee is at \$7.50/capita. Lorenz explained to Olson that this increase of over \$20,000 would have needed to be in the budget which was finalized in November. Olson said he is aware, but also knows municipalities can amend their budgets. Lorenz told him at this time amending the budget would be difficult and the money would still need to come from somewhere. Council told Olson the City is very grateful for the service and understand the need and reasoning behind the increase request. Czaplewski said she doesn't think this amount is an unreasonable request for a service that the community needs, it's just not in our budget at this time. The council requested SVEM provide a 2019 yearly financial statement also before making any decisions. Unfortunately amending the budget will take some time. Olson was told that the council will discuss further at the next meeting with more board members present. They would like to know if there are other options such as starting half way through the year or starting at \$1/hour. That would possibly make it easier to pull money from other areas that have been budgeted for the year. Olson was told the contract being changed to a calendar year contract would make a lot more sense and that reviewing and coming for requests at budget time, which is the same for all the municipalities, would be best.

Cemetery – Meier reported 9 cremations and 4 full body burials in 2019. Meier is trimming trees in the cemetery.

Finance – Czaplewski reported there will be a municipal BBC rebate coming back to the City as part of the recycle centers new contract that now includes Milton. If that rebate was used towards the ambulance request that would cover about half. Maybe starting in July 1st with the contract would work. Looked through budget to see where money could come from. Possible to take from machinery, fire, picnic table in ballpark. Discussed proposing start with \$1/hour for rest of year or start in July. Discussion with citizens present from SVEM about numbers and the request.

Recreation – Lorenz said the rink is running well. Meier got the new swing set delivered. Funds were donated by Doris and Ralph Ruben for the swings.

Building – Beseler Board of Appeals granted variance for height and front yard setback. Appeals board would like the council to consider changing the height requirement for a garage to raise over 15 feet. Lorenz said it would be a good idea to look at the entire zoning ordinance again soon.

Health & Safety – Discussion on shed on front street that collapsed last winter. Citizen requests owner tear shed down. Lorenz told clerk to send a letter.

Riverfront – Discussion about transferring with sale of property and wording in lease with Corps of Engineers. Lorenz set committee meeting for Wednesday, March 18th at 7pm.

BBC – BBC meeting this Thursday. County turning skidsteer over to Buffalo City because we need entity to own and insure it. Will probably be upgrading to bigger skidsteer with yearly lease. Single stream will be starting in the end of February.

Mayor Update –Discussed City owned triangle properties. Mayor would like clerk to have info on total costs of sales to those requesting purchase.

Clerk – Discuss Weather Siren updates/batteries. Motion Johansen, second Czaplewski to approve a 3-year contract and battery replacement this year with Emergency Communication Systems at a total cost of \$750/year contract and \$1,596 for this year's battery replacements and rust kits.

Motion Czaplewski, second Johansen to approve operator license for Johnson (Cove). All yes, motion carried. Motion Johansen, second Czaplewski to approve sale of cemetery plot 119N ½ to Becker. All yes, motion carried.

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

Jenny Ehlenfeldt, Clerk