

**CITY OF BUFFALO CITY REGULAR MEETING-
MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2021-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, Ron Speltz, and Beth Kraft. Also present: City Superintendent Stan Meier.

Motion Fuller, second Secrist to approve minutes from the previous meetings. All yes, motion carried.

Citizens Concerns – Mayor asked both Ron Speltz, chairman of the Town of Belvidere and Dave Busch, President of the Village of Cochrane, to be here. Busch wasn't able to make it.

Finance Committee-

Council all received the Scenic Valley Ambulance updated contract to review. Olson acknowledged he received the addendum proposed by Buffalo City but had not shared with the membership. Olson said they have operated over 40 years without any addendum to the contract and they were not willing to sign with it. Council said the large increase in the contract amount would not be agreed upon without some additional requirements. Fuller added that part of the addendum is just a list of questions that will be reviewed before budgeting next year and only includes things the service has already said they feel will happen with the additional funds for on call pay like recruiting more members and filling the on call schedule.

Mack said the addendum includes a public apology request from SVEMS to apologize for statements that the municipalities are not supporting the service and to clarify some misleading statements. Olson and Kochenderfer argued the service did not make any statements that were misleading or negative towards the municipalities. The council disagrees and Mack said he would not sign the contract without the apology request remaining in the addendum. Speltz asked Olson if the contract and addendum were even brought back to the SVEMS members after the last meetings when the municipalities rejected it. Olson said it was not. Kochenderfer added that the decision was made and the officers would do any further negotiating. After much discussion, Olson agreed that he would sign the contract with the addendum.

Motion Johansen, second Fuller to approve the revised contract with SVEMS as written at \$27.50/capita to pay on call hours based on actual payroll amounts including the attached addendum. Also agreeing that the Council president will have authority to sign the contract in the absence of the Mayor. All yes. Motion Carried.

Public Works - Discussion on new truck lease option from Sugar Loaf Ford. Mack said the entire trade package would come to about \$27,500 at the most. Once traded and signed up for the lease program the dealer provides a new lease truck every year at no cost. Only cost to the City would be to attach the plow. Would need to keep under the required mileage which Meier doesn't see being a problem. Fuller brought up upgrading the plow to a larger model to be able to better plow the streets with just pick up. Council agreed this should be considered next year at budget time. Motion Secrist, second Czaplewski to sign a sale/lease agreement with Sugar Loaf Ford to trade in current City truck with understanding that the City will get a new leased truck each year. Monies for purchase this year will be taken out of the machinery funds. Roll call vote. All yes. Motion carried.

Discussed upgrading plow truck headlights. Will get new lights ordered. Mack said he is still waiting to hear from the well driller about Municipal Building well.

Cemetery – Plowing around columbarium discussed. Donation from Jean Hofer was received. Council would like to thank Hofer and others that continue to donate to the cemetery.

Recreation Committee – Secrist, clerk and superintendent met with rink employees. They are ready to start once the ice is made. Would like to have some help from fire department with water.

Building Committee – Four permits issued this month.

Health & Safety Committee – Slow progress on 9th Street property. Johansen said some vehicles were moved to back of property. Recheck will be done.

Riverfront Committee- Mayor concerned about cost of tree removal. Meier will look into . He thinks he was quoted a different price first. Mack just wants them to drop the tree and cut in chunks. They shouldn't need to take a lot of time to do this with the superintendent and part-time worker doing all the clean up.

Mayor - Mayor named Secrist as the chair of the city's new Fourth of July Committee. Secrist will work on getting all the group leaders together to discuss soon. City's Fourth of July Committee will meet at 6:30pm Feb. 8th before the regular meeting for any council that want input. Council discussed ATV/UTV county ordinance proposal and request for input. Johansen and Secrist interested in attending.

City Superintendent – There have been many street signs being taken lately and the cost to replace keeps adding up. Ordered several and now more are missing. Johansen asked if can attach them with a tamper proof bolt. Consensus would be a good investment. Meier said the new part time worker is working out well.

Clerk/Treasurer – Motion Johansen, second Czaplewski. to approve operator license for Wicka (B&S). 3 - yes, 1- abstain. Motion carried. Tri-Community Fire Department would like to thank the City for giving them the Covid Routes to Recovery grant money to purchase their new sanitizing equipment. Council was happy to help them out.

Other Discussion – Parking at 10th Street landing discussed. Mayor will zoom to February meeting. President will run meeting. Czaplewski wants to start discussion of street loan process this year as early as possible. Discussion on referendum to raise taxes for ambulance service. Discussed options for council tablets/laptops that was included in the budget for this year. Clerk will get ideas narrowed down and put options out to council soon.

Motion Czaplewski, second Johansen to pay bills with one held for additional information. All yes, motion carried.

Motion Johansen, second Fuller to adjourn. All yes, motion carried.

Jenny Ehlenfeldt, Clerk