

**CITY OF BUFFALO CITY REGULAR MEETING-
MONDAY, JULY 11, 2022 -MUNICIPAL BUILDING – 7:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the City of Buffalo City Common Council was called to order by Mayor Ben Holien at 7 p.m. Roll call: George Fuller, Larry Johansen and Kim Beseler. Jeannie Czaplowski via Phone; Also Present City Superintendent Stan Meier. Citizens present: Mike Osmond and Richard Haeuser and Deb Morem.

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

Citizens Mike Osmond was here to introduce himself to the council. He is running for Buffalo County Sheriff. Would like to have better communication between all municipal boards and department. Haeuser discussed his lots he owns and his plans to build a garage. Council told him the building committee would review his plans with him once they were submitted in the future. Morem said she would like to see garbage cans at the boat landings again. The council told her the reason the cans were taken away years ago was because people abused them and brought garbage there or threw things like fish guts or baby diapers that stunk the entire area up in less than a day. Those using the landing should take their garbage with them. She also questioned why the city is not cleaning the black locust trees off the area around 10th street landing again. Crews cleared the area a few years ago but it is all grown back up again. Unfortunately the City can't use the chemicals Morem would recommend to keep the invasive vegetation from regrowing. We can only use what Corps of Engineers recommends. Holien told her the area will be looked at when tree cutting along the river is done again next winter.

Recreation – Insurance check has been received for replacing both the jailhouse roof and the concession stand roof and repairing the two park shelter roofs. Flyway Construction provided estimates for the insurance company and has presented contracts that meet the estimates approved by the insurance for signing. Holien would like to see the materials list and make sure there are credits if materials are returned. He will discuss with Secrist first. Fuller questioned if we should knock the chimney off the jailhouse so we avoid any leakage. It's not on the state historical registry.

Fuller gave an update on how the Community Action Committee's Fourth of July Celebration went. Food sales went great. Fireworks went great. Chicken cookers were wondering if city would consider taking cement pit out so they could bring their big metal pits in. Council discussion on using the pit in the future.

Holien told CAC they did a great job with all 4th and commended Meier on a good job getting all prepped for the event. He felt the basketball tournament was a great addition to the day and was very well attended. Thank you again to the Ye Old Schoolhouse Shoppe for the donation of the new basketball hoops.

Holien said the city has gotten interest from two contractors on working on the Piechowski Memorial Shelter at Foelsch Park. Rough estimates have come in around \$20,000 for one contractor with very limited plans at this time. Holien would like to see the project continue to move forward to ensure the Wanek family donation money is put to good use and also be able to commit about \$15,000 of City money into the project this year or next year. Fuller said he was told to wait until mid 2023 for prices to go down. We want to give the Waneks a plan to show the expenses and what we have planned. Fuller would like a gable end with a stained pine and instead of concrete work use the faux block up the pillars to save money. Plan to get the Wanek family a plan with specs and expenses with hopes to build in 2023. The Eagle Scout Project also

continues to move forward. The scout is currently working on clearing over grown trails and many trees that have fallen over trails in the past year. Clerk reminded him that if funds are needed he should request them.

All new 10th Street park signs were installed. Clerk will be posting a thank you to the Schoolhouse on Facebook as well as putting something in the papers. Johansen said he has seen several using the Frisbee golf. Council is very pleased with the use there as well. Holien asked if there are things at the ballpark that need to be fixed or we should be guiding the PYAA towards to keep the ballpark looking better using the funds we put in over the years. Fuller wondered about the condition of the shed.

Finance – Czaplewski told the council we received the rest of the ARPA funds this month. The money will be discussed more at budget time.

Cemetery – Pete and Shirley Saverinsky spent the past month redoing the veterans flag markers so that the flags would fit more snugly in them. They also created an updated list of all the veterans markers in the cemetery that the clerk will review with the old list she has on file. The City would like to thank them for the time they put into this project. Discussed the very large increase in cost of a new columbarium since the last one was purchased in 2019.

Building - Four permits issued this month.

Health & Safety – Council discussed vehicles parked at the rental house on 4th and Herman Streets. There are an excessive amount. Owner of property was sent a letter and he told the clerk he was working on ensuring all are registered. Question if all including RVs and boats are currently registered vehicles. Beseler questioned all the garbage outside. Johansen will stop and talk to the tenants. Mayor and others received complaints over the 4th of July weekend of youth riding mopeds, scooters and dirt bikes on the streets and in the parks in Buffalo City. Mayor approached one group and told them to stay out of the park. After other complaints were received, the sheriff's department was notified. They were seen throughout the weekend after that. Clerk would like to post the actual legality of youth riding motorized vehicles on the streets. Feel like parents treat the city like it is a campground. Also reminder from the sheriff's department that youth are not allowed to ride ATVs alone on streets even if they do have a certificate to operate one, and they must wear helmets at all times if they are under the age of 18.

Riverfront – Discussed 10th Street Dock future options to get pilings in deeper so we can get them in and out easier. Holien asked Meier to talk to Coulee Region to get the pilings in deeper this fall to be ready for next year. Discussed some of the riverfront inspection issues we still have. Questions about if we would sell old ramp left from 10th street. Consensus offer two to give silent bid. Kayak dock was installed late last week. Many good comments on Facebook about it just today. Do we want to leave the old sign that Lions donated the dock? Consensus to leave donations sign in place. Continued trash in the receptacles meant to collect fishing line.

BBCM – Hoping for October 1 as transition to Waste Transport taking over. Czaplewski met with county and feel still moving forward.

Mayors Update - Mayor would like to address those that have property disputes in the City. There have been a few contacting the city in the past month who have disputes with their neighbors about property lines. These issues are civil issues that need to be addressed by them or through the Buffalo County Sheriff's Department if they can not be resolved. The City is not responsible for property line disputes. If there have been surveys done in the past, they should be

on file at the Buffalo County Register of Deeds of Office. If there is not a survey, then the property owner is responsible for having one done. These are matters that should be handled by attorneys and the courts and at no time will the city get involved.

City Superintendent – Would we sell the old John Deer mower to the part-time guy for \$1,500? Consensus of the council we would sell to Grotjahn for \$1,500 as is.

Clerk – Motion Beseler, second Fuller to approve sale of cemetery plot 129 S ½ of S ½ and 130 N ½ of N ½ to Steiner. All yes, motion carried. Clerk will be looking into urban forestry grant for budget time. Reminder that the primary election will be August 9th.

Motion Beseler, second Johansen to go into closed session per WI Statute 19.85 (1)(c) to discuss employee evaluations and compensation. Motion Johansen, second Fuller to raise Grotjahn to \$16/hour. All yes, motion carried. Motion Johansen, second Beseler to return to open session per WI Statute 19.85 (2). All yes, motion carried. Council commends part-time Grotjahn on an exceptional job after over 90 days. Happy to have him on board with the city. Having two part-time employees working with the City Superintendent seems to be working very well.

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

Ben Holien, Mayor

Jenny Ehlenfeldt, Clerk

date approved