

**CITY OF BUFFALO CITY REGULAR MEETING-  
MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2018-MUNICIPAL BUILDING – 7:00 PM**

The Regular meeting of the City of Buffalo City Common Council was called to order by Mayor Russ Lorenz, Jr. at 7 p.m. Roll call: Kevin Mack, Jeannie Czaplewski and Larry Johansen, Ben Holien. Also present City Superintendent Stan Meier. Citizens present: Sheriff Mike Schmidtknecht, Lee Engfer, Tim Huebner, Sandy Michaels, Brian Michaels, Allen Dahl, Deb Morem and Jennifer Homeyer. The meeting was held as noticed. Motion Mack, second Czaplewski to approve minutes from the previous meetings. All yes, motion carried.

**Finance** - Jennifer Homeyer from Bauman Associates presented the City's 2017 audit report to the Council. Homeyer told the council finances were all presented appropriately. The City ended the year with a \$16,424 surplus over budget.

**Recreation** - Lee Engfer presented the 2018 C-BC Little League report. The league has about 100 players this year, sharing in some areas with Fountain City. The annual Chicken-Q fundraiser was held in the beginning of June. Extensive upgrades were made to the Buffalo City fields last year, upgrades to the Cochrane park are planned for this year. Engfer said the league would like to possibly put a new, bigger shed in at the Buffalo City ball park. Holien thanked Engfer and the league for continuing the program and what Holien said is one of the few opportunities for the youth in our area. Mack reminded Engfer that the City would like to see Town of Belvidere contribute to the program to support recreation for their residents as well.

**Public Works** – Mayor Lorenz opened bids on repaving sections of 21<sup>st</sup> Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Bids were received from Oium Asphalt Paving Inc. for \$18,340 and Dunn Blacktop Company for \$18,101.65. Lorenz said he has been very pleased with Oium's work for the City in the past and doesn't see the price difference significant enough to go with Dunn. Mack agreed, but said he was displeased with the amount of time the streets sat after the old blacktop was pulverized during the 2016 large-scale project. Huebner assured the Council he would not let that happen again. Motion Mack, second Holien to contract with Oium Asphalt Paving in the amount of \$18,340 as part of the City's Local Roads Improvement Program grant application for repaving of the sections on 21<sup>st</sup> Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Roll call vote, all yes. Motion carried.

**Health and Safety** – Buffalo County Sheriff Mike Schmidtknecht addressed the council with information about designating ATV routes on City Streets. Council understands that Buffalo County Board of Directors would have to approve allowing ATVs on county roads to allow any routes on a large stretch of River Road that is county road and 10<sup>th</sup> Street. Council told citizens at the meeting they understand using an ATV to get around would be convenient but without county authorization some of the main reasons to use an ATV (to access the river road or Spring Lake area) would not be possible. Schmidtknecht said if the City allowed ATVs per ordinance on City streets, the county would not be able to enforce issues such as trespassing and other property issues. They could possibly stop speeders and possible drunk drivers, but because the City does not have their own law enforcement most would come back on the council to control like all other City ordinances. Schmidtknecht said Mondovi has recently designated City streets as routes, but they have their own police department and they also can't allow access on County roads in the City. Holien added that the trails in Mondovi connect to trails that go in and out of town. The City would not have any connecting trails. Johansen said he doesn't see enforcement being a problem and that most people just want to drive their ATV to the gas station or river. Czaplewski said without county road access she doesn't see a reason for the City to consider changing the ordinance. Lorenz told citizens at the meeting they would need to address their concerns with the Buffalo County board. Schmidtknecht also addressed the Council's question about speed zone on River Road. He said the WI DOT has agreed that the speed could be lowered if the county was on board. It's up to the City if they would like to pursue a lower speed limit. Council is concerned

about the speeds in the area of businesses along the River Road, which is also a county road. Council discussed possibility of no parking on one or both sides of the road. Schmidtknecht agreed the parking restrictions could help alleviate safety concerns due to parking, pedestrians and vehicles all on a road that is already narrower than it should be. Several council members were weary of restricting parking which would force those using their riverfront to park on side streets along yards. While the City right-of-way is 30 feet from the center of the street, property owners still don't like parking in their yards. Lorenz would like Clerk to look into speed deterrent signs and other ways to get people to slow down on River Road. Czuplewski asked the council to consider adding a vicious dog ordinance to the City's current animal ordinance. She was recently attacked by a dog on North River Road in the Town of Belvidere and found out that the county would not fine the owners or require any restrictions on the dog that bit her because the municipality is responsible for regulating dogs that bite. Lorenz told her to look into other municipalities ordinances and it can be discussed at the July meeting. Clerk reported on several property owner's that have weeds/grass over 10 inches tall. Many letters that were sent came back unsigned for. Two properties are currently in foreclosure. Meier was told to mow the 9<sup>th</sup> Street property in foreclosure and charge the weed charge per City policy to that property. Clerk will try to get information about the other property that was recently sold at sheriff auction. Mack to talk to different property owners with many unlicensed vehicles and junk after their letter also came back unsigned. Citizen concern raised about an unsafe structure being built on a property. Mack will also talk to that property owner. Council told clerk to have Buffalo County Sheriff's department serve a 14<sup>th</sup> Street property owner with a nuisance rooster, un-permitted fence and fence through the alley with a letter stating they have 15 days to comply or they will be fined.

**Cemetery** – Committee recommends the Council consider a cold weather policy to prevent costly damage to equipment in winter. There were several burials that had to be dug in below freezing temperatures last year. A few times, equipment was damaged. The committee recommends no digging under 15 degrees. Council discussed if this is not fair to families. Lorenz said there are many cemeteries that don't even do winter burials and not that long ago our Cemetery was one of them. We would still accommodate burials at the earliest possible time. Motion Holien, second Johansen to add to Buffalo City Cemetery Policy that digging of graves will not take place in temperatures under 15 degrees. Every effort will be made to dig the grave in a timely fashion. All yes, motion carried. Mack said clerk should make sure to notify all funeral homes in area of the policy change as soon as possible. Lorenz said the committee also talked about future cemetery expansion. Clerk looking into possibility of cremations mausoleum and Holien will speak with neighboring property owner about possible purchase of land for expansion.

**Building** – Thirteen permits issued.

**Riverfront** – Committee recommends leasing out spaces that used to be used for fire lanes but are no longer needed by the fire department. Lanes they recommend leasing are at 14<sup>th</sup> Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Street. Second St. lane will remain open with the City's fishing dock and the lane south of River Ratz will be split up. Committee would like to lease 50 more feet to River Ratz to be consistent with other businesses in town and keep the other 50 feet open due to congestion issues in the area. Clerk will first contact those on the trade list to offer spaces available and then open up to wait list going in order. There should be about 15 spaces more leased. Motion Holien, second Czuplewski to open up 14<sup>th</sup> Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Street fire lanes to lease riverfront spaces and offer 50 more feet to River Ratz Saloon. Yes – Czuplewski, Holien, Johansen; Abstain – Mack. Motion carried. Discussed repairs still needed at the 10<sup>th</sup> Street boat landing south dock and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street fishing dock. Mack does not want to wait for the company we have used in the past. They were notified months ago and we are still waiting for them to repair the dock which is a serious hazard. Clerk had Coulee Region Docks come look at 10<sup>th</sup> Street dock. While they don't have the equipment to fix it, they did speak with Mack and offered to replace the dock for \$7,000 with trade in of the current dock. Mack would like to see approved and done before the July 4<sup>th</sup>

week. Czaplewski suggested the City use some of the excess 2017 budget money. Motion Holien, second Mack to spend up to \$7,500 of the 2017 excess budget money to purchase a new dock, with trade, for the 10<sup>th</sup> Street boat landing. All yes, motion carried.

**Superintendent:** Sweeping done. Weather sirens to be serviced this week. Ash trees cut down in the park. Others in ballpark will be taken down in the fall. Mack reminded Meier the park should be looking great for the 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration.

Clerk – Motion Mack, second Holien to approve sale of cemetery plot 127 S ½ of S ½ NEW to Richard and Tammy Guldenaar. All yes, motion carried. Motion Holien, second Mack to approve granting Class B liquor licenses to River Ratz Saloon, LLC (Pawlak) and The Cove, Inc. (Neitzel) and Class A liquor license to B & S Express (Michaels). Motion Mack, second Czaplewski to approve Temporary Class B Liquor License for C-BC Lions Club, July 4, 2018 at the Buffalo City Park. All yes, motion carried. All yes, motion carried. Motion Mack, second Czaplewski to approve issuing cigarette license to River Ratz Saloon, LLC and B & S Express. All yes, motion carried. Motion Holien, second Mack to approve granting operator's license to: River Ratz: Harm, Jewell, Schively; B & S: M. Michaels, K. Michaels, Marco, Dienger, Becker, Cowell, Halvorson, Kostner; The Cove: Johnson, Johnsen, Maier, Spalding, Davis, Richter, Dahl, Harm, Koenig, Gleiter, Ranieri. All yes, motion carried.

Motion Holien, second Mack to pay bills. All yes, motion carried. Motion Mack, second Czaplewski to adjourn. All yes, motion carried.  
Jenny Ehlenfeldt, Clerk