

**CITY OF BUFFALO CITY REGULAR MEETING-  
MONDAY, MARCH 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, Kevin Mack, Ben Holien and Larry Johansen. Citizen present: Keith Mueller, Jon Wisneski, Ron Olson, Dakodah Hartwig, Crystal Ganz, Niki Wicka, Lola Longyhore, Paul Longyhore and Jesse Horn.

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

**Cemetery** – Jon Wisneski representing catholic church in Alma informed the council that the church board has voted to abandon their cemetery in City limits. He said no one has been buried there for over 60 years and the church has lost all records of any burials or plot owners. They don't have the funds to maintain the cemetery anymore. The church board voted unanimously in January to abandon. Clerk verified with City attorney that the City can not take the cemetery over for 1 year without legally being responsible for burials. Council would like minutes from church board and will revisit the abandoned cemetery issue in one year. Until then Wisneski assured the board that someone would mow the cemetery even though it will be considered abandoned. Council agreed once the year is up the City should take over maintenance responsibilities but not until then, because we don't want to be legally responsible for burials in a cemetery we don't have records for. Columbarium on schedule to go in before Memorial Day. Clerk will hold a Friends of the Cemetery meeting on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. One stone was recently damaged when a grave was being dug in extremely cold weather. City will pay to have replaced.

**Recreation** – Lorenz said the rink is closed for the season.

**Building** – Two Permits issued. One is a pre-fab house being moved in this spring on 17<sup>th</sup> Street. Mack would like to double check to make sure front set backs are correct before the house is in. He and the City Superintendent will go measure.

**Public Works** – Czaplewski told the council the City did not receive money from the special state roads grant available. Lorenz thanked Czaplewski for looking into and applying for the grant.

**Riverfront** – Meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> to close commercial loop hole in Corps of Engineers contract and review other matters.

**BBC** – Single stream recycling started the end of February. April hours will be changed to 2-6pm on Tuesdays and 8-4 pm on Saturdays.

**Mayor Update** – Discussion on 2020 Scenic Valley Emergency Services contract. Mack would like to see all communities discuss the contract together at the Tri-Community Board meeting. Olson came with two contract options the \$7.50/capita contract the same as last year and the contract for \$27.50/capita. Both would run from May 1 through December 31 this year so that the contract can be signed January to December from now on and work better with the municipalities budgets. Council continues to have a lot of questions on SVEM financial statements and billing. Questions include how much they don't get back from the private billing service they use, how much they project to make next year with increase in fee schedule and how much on call pay will actually cost the service. Ganz told the council run charge rates have been increased to \$675/run and \$275/non transport. These charges had not been increased in many years. Consensus of the

council they would like to discuss the contract with all other municipalities instead of working on this individually with the service. Motion Mack, second Johansen to approve an 8 month contract from May 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31, 2020 for \$7.50/capita for a total of \$5,115. All yes, motion carried.

Jesse Horn addressed the council with a request to possibly name a Jesse Horn Day in April which is Autism Awareness Month. Horn told the council is story of growing up with autism and in the last several years being a world champion cup stacker on the World Sport Stacking Associations Team USA. He has also done many speaking engagements around the world and recently written a book called "Stacked Against the Odds" set to release in April. Horn was born and raised in Buffalo City. His aunt Lola Longyhore said the family would like to hold a book release day in Buffalo City as a thank you to the community who has supported Horn throughout his journey. Motion Mack, second Holien to designate April 2<sup>nd</sup> Jesse Horn Recognition Day and make the Buffalo City Municipal Building available for them. All yes, motion carried.

Discussed city owned properties along the River Road between 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Street. Council looked at the costs associated with the sale that will be charged to the buyers. Lorenz said we should leave it up to individual buyers whether they would like title insurance or not since that is the biggest cost of the sale. Clerk will present the options to each of the buyers and bring back the final sales agreements to the April meeting.

**City Superintendent** – Trimming trees in cemetery. He has 47 little trees done, 37 left, 35 big and 17 left. Took 4 rotten trees out of cemetery in old section where they could fall on old stones, and ordered 20 trees for park and cemetery. Would like the council to consider allowing him to cut down some of the 20 Chinese Elm trees in the park next fall/winter. He said they are a very messy tree and lose branches any time it is windy. He has been reestablishing shade in area by planting trees where trees have been removed in the past. Mack said he could see maybe cutting a couple a year but doesn't think the trees being messy is a reason to cut them. Only if they are rotting or dying. Meier will start with the few that aren't healthy. He has also been cleaning up intersection vision clearance triangles with help from property owners. Would like to sweep with council permission. If would snow again wouldn't sand. Lorenz said to wait 2 weeks before sweeping. Mack brought up French drain for 10<sup>th</sup> and Belvidere area to handle all the runoff. Would like to look into what it would cost. Council questioned if French Drain would work and what cost there and at the 24<sup>th</sup> street property. Noted that council is not responsible for grinding down stumps of trees cut along the city right of way in the past few years. If a property owner wants stumps ground, that is their expense.

**Clerk** – Keith Mueller, potential buyer of the Cove introduced himself to the council. All license info up to date. He plans to run as a bar and restaurant as it is now. Motion Mack, second Holien to approve Class B Beer and Liquor License for Keith Mueller operating at The Lost Pirate Tiki Bar and Grill, 175 S. River Rd., indoor sales only, contingent on the purchase of the property. All yes, motion carried. Council discussed the property septic system with Mueller and potential to work with him if it ever did need to be replaced.

Motion Mack second Holien to go into closed session per WI Statute 19.85(1)(c) to discuss employee evaluations. Motion Holien, second Mack to reconvene into open session per Wi Statute 19.85(2). Motion Holien, second Johansen to increase Engler pay to \$15.50 per hour as of March 1<sup>st</sup>. All yes, motion carried.

Motion Mack, second Czapelwki to pay bills. All yes, motion carried. Motion Holien, second Johansen to adjourn. All yes, motion carried.

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Russell Lorenz, Jr., Mayor

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Jenny Ehlenfeldt, Clerk

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