

**CITY OF BUFFALO CITY REGULAR MEETING-  
MONDAY, MAY 14, 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. Absent: Ben Holien. Also present City Superintendent Stan Meier. Citizens present: Ronald Flury, Dean Sukowatey, Kimarie Estenson, Mitch Moe, Mel Bollom, Megan Husser, Bruce Husser, Clem Swiatczak, Larry Thoeny, Kari Wilde, Lance Laduke, Zoe Laduke, Cory Baker, Mark Beseler, Jim Wilkie, David Danzinger, Kevin Cassidy, Brian Michaels, Tom Clark and Carol Burmeister. The meeting was held as noticed. Motion Mack, second Czaplewski to approve minutes from the previous meetings. All yes, motion carried.

Mayor recommended hiring Dan Rajkowski as the new part-time city employee. Motion Mack, second Johansen to approve hiring Rajkowski as part-time employee at a minimum of 15 hours per week, starting pay \$13.50/hour with a six month probationary period and review after that. All yes, motion carried.

Tom Clark from the Cochrane-Buffalo City Lions Club presented plans for this year's Fourth of July Celebration in the Buffalo City Park. All events to be run the same as in the past on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Lions requesting a fireworks permit. Fire department will be on hand at the event. Also request closing 12<sup>th</sup> Street from Humboldt to Belvidere. Motion Mack, second Czaplewski to approve fireworks permit for Lions on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July at the City Park and close 12<sup>th</sup> Street for the day from Humboldt to Belvidere. All yes, motion carried.

Dean Sukowatey of AllEnergy Corporation presented a proposal to the council to consider annexation of land north of the City currently in the Town of Belvidere. Most of the land is owned by Ron Flury. Annexation request would also come with a rezone request to build a rail spur that Sukowatey said would be used primarily as a load/unload facility for sand. Sukowatey said he is hopeful the facility could also be used to transport other commodities. Council was given drawings of the facility with rail spur off the east side of the current Burlington Northern tracks. Czaplewski asked Sukowatey if he had plans for any type of manufacturing, drying or processing facility at the location. He assured the council that the location would be strictly a load/unload facility. The operation is estimated to bring 4 trucks an hour into the facility, operating 24 hours per day most days of the year according to Sukowatey. Mel Bollom, a representative with AllEnergy told the council the facilities like these are not dusty. Sand would be stored in ground pits or silos. The types and heights of silos are not known at this time. Bollom offered to take the council on a tour of a similar facility at some point. Sukowatey said AllEnergy is requesting the annexation because they know they can not work with the county zoning regulations to get a facility approved. Flury said he does not currently have a purchase agreement with the company. At this time the company and Flury are assessing their options as far as getting the land annexed by either the Village of Cochrane or City of Buffalo City. Flury feels the facility could add additional tax base to the City. Lorenz asked about permitting because some land must be wetlands. Kimarie Estenson said she would work for AllEnergy to obtain needed permitting. Mack questioned who would maintain the road to the highway from the facility. Sukowatey assured him the company would. Johansen questioned noise levels. He was told minimal noise from moving trains and conveying sand into rail cars which would be done in a building.

**Public Comment** – Swiatczak, a Town of Belvidere resident who lives close to the proposed facility, said he objects to it due to noise and smell. He said the facility would be unbearable to live by. Kevin Cassidy, a citizen of Alma, said he has followed county zoning meeting on sand manufacturing for years and he does not see a need for the facility based on the current lack of operations in Buffalo or Trempealeau County. He said that he does not believe any ag commodities would ever be shipped from the same facility as sand. He also questioned several

lawsuits he said AllEnergy is currently involved in. Sukowatey responded explaining the cases Cassidy was referring to. David Danzinger, chairman of the Town of Belvidere as well as a county board supervisor and member of the county zoning committee, said he was absolutely opposed to any type of rail facility in that location. He said Belvidere believes this area will fill with residential properties in the future. He also believes there would not be a lot of tax income off the property to benefit the City and that annexing itself could be illegal. He urged the City to deny any annexation request and future rail facility in the location. He said Belvidere would resist the annexation. Jim Wilkie, Mayor of Alma, asked the council to consider the impact trucks would have going through Alma at the rate the company is suggesting. He was told by AllEnergy that trucks would not come through Alma and that all sand they are considering trucking would come from the south and east. When asked more specifically from where, Sukowatey said he has non-disclosure agreements with all operations at this time. Mayor Lorenz thanked the representatives from AllEnergy and the public for attending and closed the public comment time.

**Recreation** – Little league will be at June meeting.

**Public Works:** One street project bid was received from Oium Asphalt. The bid amount was below what is needed for the City to receive the state Local Roads Improvement Grant money this year. Motion Mack, second Johansen to deny bid received for the 21<sup>st</sup> Street project and request new bids with additional project. All yes, motion carried. Clerk will notice new bids due at June meeting for the 21<sup>st</sup> Street section and add a section of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street to get the overall price needed. Water in park did not work when Meier tried to start up last week. Schaffners was called and a new sand point needed to be put in.

**Building** – Ten permits issued. One permit will go to board of appeals for variance request.

**Riverfront** – Second Street dock recognition plaque to be placed this week with dedication photo to be taken Memorial weekend with dock donors. 10<sup>th</sup> Street dock needs repairs soon or needs to be roped off. Missing floats are making it dangerous. Message has been left with company again.

**Health and Safety:** Discussion on properties that need attention. Many unregistered vehicles, junk. Definition of fence discussed and what can be considered a structure or just junk. Clerk to send several letters. More noise complaints and speeding complaints received. Clerk will notify the Buffalo County Sheriff's department. Will also have the attorney send a letter to the owner of property on 10<sup>th</sup> and Herman. Dog running complaint on 13<sup>th</sup> Street. Clerk will send letter. Council discussed condition of alley between the business zoned properties from 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> Street from Belvidere to River. City does not maintain alleys, but any maintenance private property owners would like to do is completely acceptable. Alleys are maintained throughout the City by a group of owners or just one owner. Council consensus that a property owner can not prevent the alley from being maintained by another neighboring property owner.

**Superintendent:** Getting cemetery ready for Memorial Day. Sweeping of River Road and Spring Lake to finish off for the season. Part-time employee to start tomorrow. Two burials Saturday.

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

Jenny Ehlenfeldt, Clerk