

**CITY OF BUFFALO CITY REGULAR MEETING-  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2023 -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: Jeannie Czaplewski, George Fuller, Larry Johansen and Kim Beseler. Also Present City Superintendent Stan Meier. Motion Beseler, second Fuller to approve minutes from the previous meeting. All yes, motion carried.

**Finance** – Discussion on creating a recreation fund to keep park funds separate. Holien said the North End Pub & Grill donated \$1,000 that was raised at a golf tournament they sponsored this summer. They would like the money used for park improvements to benefit youth. Holien would like to see it kept separate and possibly have the City match the donations when feasible to budget that. Discussion on court surface and other items the money could be used for in the future like a splash pad or additional equipment. Motion Fuller, second Johansen to create a Recreation Fund at Alliance Bank. All yes, Motion carried.

**Recreation** – Discussion on camera quotes. The AVS quote that was previously approved and a new quote from Verkada were discussed. They are two different kinds of systems so they are hard to compare. Holien would like to run through a few other companies to see what they could offer. Council was not pleased with AVS lack of communication and would like to tell them they decided to pass on the quote at this time. Discussion on park needs for budget. East shelter roof underside and fascia very rough. West shelter shingles are bad and some fascia bad. Was discussed years ago and not budgeted. Question if the chicken pit roof could use replacing also. Fuller thinks jail windows are bad and need replacing as well as the door. Holien would like to talk to historical society first to see what they have for funds. Motion Czaplewski, second Fuller to approve Resolution 2023-01 for the Purpose of Funding Urban Forestry Projects. All yes, motion carried. Discussion on what kind of trees and where we would plant this grant cycle. Johansen would like to see fruit trees planted on the empty 14<sup>th</sup> Street lots. Clerk will add wording into the grant to include other city properties and the decision can be made when trees are purchased in the spring. Holien discussed Foelsch Park shelter update. Getting updated quotes from Speltz and concrete quotes. Meier said swing is being worked on. Meier is looking at pricing some new picnic tables for ballpark and Foelsch shelter. Johansen questioned just replacing boards on old ones. Discussed power options in the park and lighting options. Switches to turn lights off. Discuss light in area by bathroom or directly in the bathrooms. Will consider all during budget.

**Cemetery** – Clerk gave update on Huebsch Mausoleum clean up progress. Waiting on electrical upgrade at this time. Ye Old Schoolhouse has said they would donate the money for upgrades and cleaning of the building. It will be used for sure for the Wreaths Across America program this December. Discussed Wreaths across America with flags staying in until Wreaths are placed and come out in January. Meier is marking the trust flower urns with paint. Clerk still working with cemetery software company to digitize all records.

**Building** - 5 permits issued this month including a new home replacing one torn down. Possible Board of Appeals as well as commercial vehicle parking permit in October.

**Health and Safety** – Meier discussed getting help with a property owner that has not removed a tree he was requested to take down for street vision clearance. Holien would like Meier to take care of some of the issues without bothering property owners. Discussion on who is responsible for the trimming. Holien said city should take of the ones we can for safety reasons.

**Public Works** – Discussion continued on mailboxes in the park. Council consensus they would like them moved off the park side of the street. Johansen will continue to work on this. Meier will

get Scenic Landscape quote for mowing for budget time. Fuller discussed robotic mowing for cemetery, park or empty lots. Discussed time it takes for cemetery trimming. Holien questioned safety and liability of accidents with unmanned unit. Discussed the \$330 street loan being used to pay for part of the street patching bill included in this month's bills so that the loan is used up.

**Riverfront** – Committee discussed problem spots and sending letters. 10<sup>th</sup> Street dock ramp was damaged and removed and being fixed locally. Holien questioned how soon the ramp could get put back in. Holien said comprehensive 2024 dock inspections will be planned. Czaplewski asked if we could protect ramps with guardrail or poles. Question if that would be in the way of removal and placing the docks. Maybe paint one lane with safety stripes down the sides to make people realize it should be one vehicle down at a time. Discussed low water level at Upper Spring Lake landing.

**Tri-Community Fire Board** – Holien said the budget for next year stays about the same. The proposal of a cost to the city of more than \$20,000 for the new truck purchase was greatly reduced to \$4,772 thanks to donations and fundraisers by the department. Motion Czaplewski, second Beseler to pay the \$4,772.38 invoice for the new fire truck with ARPA funds. All yes, motion carried. Discussed budgeting for stripping and cleaning the department floors.

**BBCM** – Czaplewski discussed the county's new yearly recycle contract. She has a few questions to go over before it is approved. County recycle meeting and BBCM board meeting coming up. Will bring a revised contract back to the October meeting. Explained to council about the recent DNR inspection of the recycle center. Inspection went well until the current inspector looked back at the regulations. Brush burning area has not been set up correctly since the 90s when the DNR corresponded with the center on the correct way it should be done. BBCM , Waste transport and DNR will be meeting again in a week.

**Mayors Update** – Discussion of commercial vehicle truck parking at the shop. Holien questioned how long term a truck should be parked at the shop. He said it shouldn't be a long term storage facility. It is a temporary parking option for residents, not storage. Question on paying to park if plugged in during winter. Czaplewski said there should be signage that the City is not liable for accidents or thefts. Fuller doesn't want to see the heavy loaded trucks on the city streets. Holien said there really isn't anything in our ordinances regulating this, but could possibly designate a route for trucks to come in and out. Holien would like to look into adding electric option with a parking fee. Council added the electric should be locked for only those who are paying to use it.

**City Clerk** - Motion Johansen, second Beseler to approve the transfer of Cemetery Plot A10-1 and A10-2 from Juan P. Flury and Cynthia D. Flury to Cheyenne Flury Poeschel, Duane Poeschel and Jill Poeschel. All yes, motion carried. Motion Fuller, second Johansen to approve fireworks permit for Jared Cyrus, 1105 S. River Rd. for Saturday, September 23, 2023. All yes, motion carried.

**Other Discussion:**

Motion Czaplewski, second Fuller pay bills listed with \$330 of leftover street loan to come out of the Machinery Fund to pay a portion of the Fahrner Asphalt invoice. All yes, motion carried. Motion Johansen, second Czaplewski, to adjourn. All yes, motion carried.

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Ben Holien, Mayor

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Jenny Ehlenfeldt, Clerk

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