

**CITY OF BUFFALO CITY REGULAR MEETING-
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2020-MUNICIPAL BUILDING – 7:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the City of Buffalo City Common Council was called to order by Mayor Kevin Mack at 7 p.m. Roll call: Jeannie Czaplewski, Larry Johansen, George Fuller and Niki Secrist. Citizens present: Dan Arendt. Also present: City Superintendent Stan Meier.

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

Cemetery – City will host a thank you lunch for the friends of the cemetery at the end of the season.

Finance Committee – Council discussed possible 2020 budget amendments. Johansen asked what the possibility of needing to budget for a new well next year would be, and Czaplewski agreed that unknown expense and the unknown expense of next year's ambulance contract should be taken into consideration when moving money around in the 2020 budget now. The DNR has contacted the City to inform we must take corrective action to reduce nitrate levels in the water that the municipal building because they have tested above 20ppm and the building is open to public. Mack said he looked into a full building nitrate filter system that would be about \$3,300 and would get us to pass DNR nitrate standards, but Czaplewski warned that system was on the bottom of the DNR list of corrective solutions. She feels they may force us to put a new well in. Mack, Czaplewski and city clerk will meet with DNR representatives later this month. Mack estimated a new well would cost around \$6000. Council told Mack they feel extra in revenues now should be held until we know more about this and the ambulance contract details. Consensus to put the frisbee golf plan for the park on hold for now and see where we are at later in the year. Looked at machinery added expenses. Most due to unexpected repairs needed in sweeper, dump truck and pick up truck brakes. Muni building budget will go over if we approve replacing the front doors which were originally in the budget. We are at the limit now due to having to replace the fire department heater that went out early 2020. Will wait on spending the money on the front doors until we know more about the 2021 expenses.

Discussed street maintenance and decided to move extra \$1000 from land sale to cover repairs needed to black top by the fire department doors. Discussed election equipment upgrade required and chance of getting grant money back. If we pay for the equipment that we must get next year yet this year there is a pretty good chance the Covid Routes to Recovery grant will cover it. Consensus to pay for it out of the excess revenue in 2020 from sale of 17th Street lots.

Discussed Riverfront excess budget and using towards cutting of dead trees on the riverfront. Mack said there is money in the budget to hire a company that will be paid by the hour to cut as many of the dead/dying trees as possible in the winter months. Council agreed it would be a good opportunity.

Motion Czaplewski, second Secrist to approve the following amendments to the 2020 Buffalo City General Budget: Amend Cemetery Repairs and Maintenance expense to reflect second half of columbarium payment and payment for cement totalling

\$34,703.16 with money coming from the Perpetual Care Savings Fund; Amend 2020 park expense budget to add \$5,000 from excess 2019 budget reflecting donation made for swings, \$5,000 from the 2020 little league expense, \$2,200 from the ballpark expense and \$4,300 from the additional revenues from sale of 17th Street land to make the 2020 park expense budget \$20,000; Amend 2020 machinery expense to add \$2,585 of excess ambulance budget, \$570 of excess BBC budget to make the 2020 machinery budget \$15,196; Amend the 2020 street maintenance budget to add \$3,192 of 2020 lot sale revenue and \$1,000 of 2019 excess funds to make the 2020 street maintenance budget \$19,190; and Amend the 2020 election expense budget to pay for new equipment required to purchase with hopes of getting the funds back from the Routes to Recovery grant money to add \$5972 from the BBC rebate revenue in 2020 and \$2,000 from the 2020 attorney fee expense to make the election expense budget \$10,472. Roll call vote on all amendments. All yes, motion carried.

Motion Czaplewski, second Johansen to move all columbarium niche sales money we currently have and all funds collected in the future to the perpetual care fund. All yes, motion carried.

Secrist asked to discuss a possible room tax for the City with consideration at budget time and how it could benefit tourism in the city. Could use money for things like brochures, website, billboards, etc. The city can only get 30% of the revenues with 70 % going to an organized tourism/chamber type group. Citizens have approached her about handicap kayak launches – Secrist looked into grants for docks, etc. and said there are funds available. Council agreed to look into the tax more at budget time. It would require an ordinance to enact. And we would need a local tourism group to benefit from it. Secrist thinks it is a good idea. Johansen said he isn't sure everyone that lives here wants to promote bringing tourists in.

Recreation Committee - Frisbee Golf Expenditure estimated at \$5100 decided to put on hold until we have better idea of 2021 budget expenses. Possibly getting business sponsors for holes.

Secrist brought up idea of a dog park. Council said we could look into it but fears insurance and upkeep could be an issue.

The sink was broken in the park bathroom by a juvenile this past weekend. Meier contacted the sheriff's department. Mack would like to see the juvenile be required to work community service hours for the City.

Building Committee – Nine permits issued. Still waiting on blue print on South River Road permit that must meet November deadline. One project needs permit. Clerk will send letter.

Health & Safety Committee- 9th Street property owner contacted Johansen to show he has all copies of updated registrations he is sending in. Johansen told him he would keep in touch every week to get all vehicles moved off right of way and registered and pallets all moved. Fuller said it looks like some of 18th Street property is cleaned off. The shed was torn down but some debris remains along with a few boats/pontoons that are unregistered. Property owner has argued with Mack that the boat does not need to be registered. Mack will explain that it does per our ordinance to be stored. Motor home is

gone, but Mack not happy the property hasn't been completely taken care of. Problem on Schiller is not improving. Did not send final notice last month. Gave him a chance to make more improvements. Mack said he would talk to him again this month. Johansen will discuss registrations and others on 9th street.

Public Works – Crack sealing scheduled. Do not have a date yet.

Riverfront Committee- Committee recommends a swap between a few different lease holders that would make two 20' sections into a 40' section in two different locations. It will also allow a non-property tax payer to trade a lease with a current lease. Consensus of the council committee recommendations are good.

Tri-Community Fire Board – Still discussion on future truck purchase. Kevin reviewed the departments budget and plans for future truck purchases.

BBC&M – Czaplewski said BBC&M county per capita is going up from \$2 to \$3 next year. Single stream cost are more than originally thought mostly due to crash in market. **City Superintendent** - Council discussion that we would wait on front door replacement until later in the year when we see what money we may need for 2021 budget. Meier said Ford is looking for used trucks. Would do a yearly lease. Mack told Meier to look into the numbers for budget time.

Clerk/Treasurer – Motion Johansen, second Fuller to approve sales of columbarium niches to Fetting (AW1-1), Tillman (AW4-9), Swiatczak(AE2-5). All yes, motion carried. Motion Secrist, second Fullerto approve sale of cemetery plots 119 S ½ and 120 N ½ of N ½ to K. Robinson. All yes, motion carried. Motion Johansen, second Fuller to approve operator license for Thielen (B&S). All yes, motion carried.

Discussed 2020-2021 LP bids. Bids for pay as you go were discussed. Quality bid of .999; Severson bid of .969 and Premier bid of 1.059. Motion Joahnsen, second Fuller to go with Severson pay as you go bid of \$.0969/gallong. All yes. Motion carried.

Clerk presented an upgrade website proposal from our current web design company Vision Design. Council consensus the clerk should get additional proposals before the budget meeting.

Motion Czaplewski, second Johansen to convene into closed session per WI Statute 19.85(1)(c) to discuss employee evaluations. All yes, motion carried. Motion Johansen , second Czaplewski to return to open session per WI Statute 19.85(2). All yes, motion carried. Employee reviews were discussed and raises were issued that will be reflected 2021 budget.

Discussed possibly buying tablets or laptops for the council. Secrist has a suggestion she will get to clerk by budget time. Meier removed railing on both shelters in the park and graded the ground away from the shelters so there isn't a drop off from the cement.

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

Kevin Mack, Mayor

Jenny Ehlenfeldt, Clerk

_____date approved