

City of Buxton
Meeting Minutes
August 9, 2023 @ 7:00 PM
Barn N Grill

Present: Travis Soderberg, Holly Aamold, Keaton Flanagan, Ben Hershey, Cole Short and James Martin

Recording: Jackie Siewert, Auditor

Meeting called to order by Mayor Travis Soderberg

Meeting minutes from the July 12, 2023 meeting were read. A correction was made to the motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Ben Hershey to seconded by Keaton Flanagan. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Holly Aamold seconded by Keaton Flanagan; motion passed unanimous.

The following bills were presented for payment:

Direct	Waste Management	\$4316.88
Direct	Xcel Energy	\$949.80
Direct	Visa	\$418.13
12858	Air Borne Custom Spraying	\$645.00
12859	Brock Brend Construction	\$3600.00
12860	East Central Regional Water Dist	\$234.06
12861	Farmers Union Oil Co	\$145.87
12862	Midco	\$48.82
12863	Team Lab	\$1690.00
12864	Thomas Moe	\$150.00
12865	True North Equipment	\$48.41
12866	Van Diest Supply Company	\$486.75
12867	Jaqueline Siewert	\$1385.25

Keaton Flanagan motioned to approve the bills, Ben Hershey seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, reviewed the current year to date budget comparison. Jackie advised the council that she has prepared letters for any past due 2022 quarterly billings. These letters will be sent out certified. The residents will have until September 30, 2023 to pay any past due balance. Any unpaid balances will be forwarded to the Traill County Auditor to be placed on the residents next property tax bills. Mayor Soderberg inquired if all the residents at the Buxton Trailer Court are current on their rent. Jackie Siewert confirmed that they are all current.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, presented the council with the updated 2024 budget. The council reviewed the updated budget which included funds for a new mower. The final levy amount for 2024 is \$64,252.43 compared to 2023's final levy amount of \$56,923.00. Ben Hershey made a motion to accept and submit to the county the final 2024 budget for \$64,252.43; Keaton Flanagan seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

Mayor Travis Soderberg advised the council that he did receive confirmation from Stewart Signs that installation was not included in the quote received. They are also having a hard time finding an installer for our area. Mayor Soderberg said that the installation is pretty straight forward. He figured that he could do it if needed and Waslien Electric could do the electrical work. Mayor Soderberg also said that the base of the sign can be any color that was listed in the quote information packet. Mayor Soderberg stated that any further discussion on the sign would be tabled until the September meeting.

Mayor Soderberg reviewed the bobcat tool cat quote of \$71,960.00 that was presented at the last council meeting. He stated that the biggest concern is the weight of the machine and spraying on soft ground. Keaton Flanagan inquired on the plan for replacing/updating the tool cat whether it was going to be every three years or every 10 years and will it hold its value. Mayor Soderberg stated that it would be more like every 10 years. Mayor Soderberg also stated that the tool cat would replace using other's equipment, such as tractors, for tree pile and mulch pile upkeep. Mayor Soderberg would also like to eventually get forks for it for unloading deliveries. Ben Hershey made a motion to move forward with the purchase of the bobcat tool cat at the quoted price of \$71,960.00; Keaton Flanagan seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

Mayor Soderberg stated that fall clean up is tentatively scheduled for September 16, 2023. Jackie Siewert, city auditor, stated that she emailed Waste Management for confirmation on rates and availability of the date. The area rep was out of the office but will be back next week. Holly Aamold made a motion to approve the scheduling of roll-offs for fall clean-up with Waste Management; Keaton Flanagan seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous. Once the date has been confirmed Jackie Siewert will make a post on Facebook and put up signs notifying the residents.

Mayor Soderberg stated that the basketball hoops have been re-installed as well as the rims. Travis also stated the once all contractors have been paid the paperwork will be completed and submitted to the Traill County EDC for the grant that was awarded.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that the generator has been placed on the concrete pad and the LP tank has been installed. The generator does still need to be set and wired. The LP line also needs to be ran from the tank to the generator. Holly Aamold inquired why a 250 gallon tank wasn't used so it could be place on the pad and remain within the fenced area. Mayor Sodeberg stated that LP installer from Portland Farmers Union Oil recommended the 500 gallon tank. Also, with the uncertainty of knowing the length of time the generator could run on a 500 gallon tank he rather be prepared for a long term electrical outage versus short term. Ben Hershey inquired on the routine testing of the generator. Mayor Soderberg stated the Generac will do the periodic testing. It is part of the start-up package. Jackie Siewert will talk to Eric Gunderson to add the generator to our insurance.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that Nilson Brand Law was contacted in regards to the property located at 317 Broadway. A letter will be sent to the owner, Dennis Riedhammer, addressing the condition of the building and possible safety issues. Mayor Sodeberg also advised Mr. Riedhammer of the letter that will be sent from our attorney's office. The letter is the beginning step in the process to condemn the building in the event no action is taken by Mr. Riedhammer.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that the tree pile and grass pile look good. He was going to relocate a portion of the compost pile to near the black dirt pile but was unable to due to equipment break down.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that the crack sealer has not yet been used.

Council member, Ben Hershey, stated that some yards have cleaned up but there are still some areas that still have very large weeds. Mayor Soderberg stated that in the event of any further complaints the city can mail a letter addressing the problem of overgrown weeds. If still no action, the city can clean up the property and trim the weeds at the residents cost.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that Sentry Siren technician, Ed Wise, is coming tomorrow for the installation of the new control box and timer.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he reached out to BNSF. BNSF confirmed that they will be replacing the crossing on County Road 21 by the end of the month.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that the new banners have been received. He showed the council both designs. The council agreed that they looked great. The new banners will be stored for now and put up next year.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, advised the council that she will be leaving her position at the Farmers Union Oil in Buxton at the end of the month. She inquired if the council would consider installing a payment drop box. Although, there has never been a drop box many residents have come accustomed to dropping their payment off with her rather than mailing it.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that Thomas Anderson of Anderson Excavating expressed interest in doing snow removal for the upcoming snow season. Mayor Soderberg asked him to provide the council with his updated rates by the September city council meeting.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he and Jackie Siewert, city auditor, will be attending the Traill County EDC summit and meet and greet social tomorrow in Mayville.

Mayor Soderberg confirmed the next city council meeting will be held September 13, 2023 at 7pm at the Buxton Fire Hall.

Holly Aamold made a motion to adjourn; Ben Hershey seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

City Auditor

Council Member

Mayor