

**City of Buxton
Meeting Minutes**

February 14, 2024 @ 7:00 PM
Buxton Fire Hall

Present: Travis Soderberg, Holly Aamold, Keaton Flanagan, Cole Short and James Maertens

Recording: Jackie Siewert, Auditor

Meeting called to order by Mayor Travis Soderberg

Meeting minutes from the January 10, 2024 meeting were read. 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	\$4318.42
Direct	Xcel Energy	\$1074.37
Direct	Visa	\$625.97
Direct	North Star Mutual Insurance	\$1248.00
12945	East Central Regional Water Dist	\$277.26
12946	Hillsboro Banner	\$209.60
12947	Midco	\$49.39
12948	Nilson Brand Law	\$899.00
12949	Office of the State Auditor	\$405.00
12950	Paulson Gravel Service	\$1200.00
12951	TEAM LAB	\$1019.50
12952	Thomas Moe	\$150.00
12953	Xcel Energy	\$48.96
12954	Jaqueline Siewert	\$1385.25

Keaton Flanagan motioned to approve the bills, Holly Aamold seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, presented the council with the 2024 year to date budget comparison. Jackie advised the council that the 2022 financial review was accepted and approved by the Office of the State Auditor. Council member Holly Aamold inquired on the several past due balances. Jackie stated that unfortunately this is typical but any unpaid balance from the previous year will be forwarded to the Traill County Auditor to be placed on the resident's taxes. Jackie also confirmed that a statement is sent to all past due accounts each quarter. Jackie is going to begin sending an additional statement the month before the next quarterly bill is sent out.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he had contacted Mr. Dennis Riedhammer, owner of the property located at 317 Broadway, on Tuesday, February 13th and inquired if he had a price for the demolition of the building. Mr. Riedhammer told Mayor Soderberg that he did have a price and was also looking at removing and replacing the roof. Mayor Soderberg relayed to Mr. Riedhammer that our council meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, February 14th at 7pm. Mr. Riedhammer was not present at the beginning of the meeting and after contacting, he notified the council that he would not be able to attend the meeting. Mayor Soderberg advised the council that there has been no progress with the property in the last 30 days. Mayor Soderberg presented the council with a quote that he received from Florian & Sons Excavating for demoing the Old Hardware Store. The quote included two proposals. Proposal 1 was for \$23,500 which included demoing the building and hauling away the debris, removal the foundation if possible without disturbing other structures, backfill with black dirt and seed the disturbed area. Proposal 2 was for \$10,000 which included removing the foundation if possible without disturbing any other structures, backfill foundation with black dirt and seed the disturbed area. Mayor Soderberg recommends moving forward with condemning the property through Nilson Brand Law. Keaton Flanagan made a motion to move forward with the condemning of the building located at 317 Broadway through Nilson Brand Law; Holly Aamold seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous. Shortly later during the meeting, Mr. Riedhammer texted Mayor Soderberg that he had a bid for demoing his building at 317 Broadway. Mr. Riedhammer stated that he would remove all of the masonry products (bricks) and the city would pay for all of the hauling and disposal cost of any debris that is left after Mr. Riedhammer removes the bricks. Mr. Riedhammer then said that he would want the City of Buxton to pay Riedhammer Masonry \$64,200 for the ownership of the property. The council members agreed that Mr. Riedhammers's proposal was not an option. Mayor Soderberg advised Mr. Riedhammer the city will be moving forward with condemning of the property.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that a city court date has been confirmed with Judge Moe for February 27, 2024 at 10am at the Buxton Fire Hall for the matter of the unkept property located at 304 Ives Street.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, advised the council that she had received the gaming license renewal application for the Buxton Daycare for their gaming sites at the Barn N Grill and Triple VVV Lounge. Keaton Flanagan made a motion to accept and approve the renewal of the Buxton Daycare's gaming license for the gaming sites located at the Barn N Grill and the Triple VVV Lounge; Holly Aamold seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

Jackie Siewert advised the council that she had submitted the Municipal Infrastructure Fund Report for reporting the use of the Prairie Dog Funds for the generator project. The report and use of funds was accepted and approved.

Council member Holly Aamold inquired on the current three CD's that the city has and if the City has ever considered combining them to qualify for a possible higher percentage rate. Jackie Siewert stated that the CD's have been in place since she had started and that they also all have different maturity dates. Mayor Soderberg stated that they have always been like a safety cushion for the city. Jackie stated that she would contact the bank to inquire on the current CD rates and renewal opportunities.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he spoke to the county and that the setback for an electronic sign would be 33 feet rather than 70 feet since it would be within city limits.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that the trailer court lot still needs to be cleaned up. Nelson Homes will continue to be charged lot rent until the trailer debris has been cleaned from the lot.

Jackie Siewert advised the council that she had received a letter of intent for centralized county assessor for 2025 assessment year from the Traill County Equalization. The quoted fee is \$3,390.00. Mayor Soderberg asked for this to be tabled until the March meeting since two council members were not present.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he had received a quote from TEAM LAB for the 2024 Rip-Rap program. The price for the 2024 pond spraying which would include two applications is \$1,690.00. Keaton Flanagan made a motion to accept TEAM LAB's quote of \$1,690.00 for the 2024 Rip Rap program; Holly Aamold seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

Mayor Sodberg advised the council that Mr. Perry Tatro from CNS (Cooperative Network Services) had reached out to him inquiring about setbacks along 13th Street NE/Dunsmoore Ave. CNS is an engineering company that assists telecommunication companies in planning new fiber optic routes. Halstad Telephone Company is planning service in the rural Buxton area and will be running a line through the city of Buxton. There would be a combination of boring and trenching on the south side of the highway. The work is planned for this summer. Mayor Soderberg stated that he will be receiving more information.

Mayor Soderberg stated that city council elections will be June 11, 2024. Keaton Flanagan's and Jeff Siewert's council seats will be open.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he will be out of town for the next regular scheduled meeting on March 13, 2024. The council agreed to move the next city council meeting to the following Wednesday. Mayor Soderberg confirmed that the next city council meeting will be held at 7pm, March 20, 2024 at the Buxton Fire Hall.

Holly Aamold made a motion to adjourn; Keaton Flanagan seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

City Auditor

Council Member

Mayor