

City of Buxton
Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2024 @ 7:00 PM
Buxton Fire Hall

Present: Travis Soderberg, Jeff Siewert, Holly Aamold, Keaton Flanagan, Ben Hershey, Alan Watson and James Maertens

Recording: Jackie Siewert, Auditor

Meeting called to order by Mayor Travis Soderberg

Meeting minutes from the April 10, 2024 meeting were read. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Keaton Flanagan; seconded by Holly Aamold; motion passed unanimous.

The following bills were presented for payment:

Direct	Waste Management	\$4318.42
Direct	Xcel Energy	\$1018.35
12978	CV FBLA – Central Valley School	\$300.00
12979	East Central Regional Water Dist	\$281.50
12980	Midco	\$49.20
12981	Nilson Brand Law	\$1146.00
12982	Thomas Moe	\$150.00
12983	Xcel Energy	\$22.94
12984	Jaqueline Siewert	\$1385.25
12985	Xcel Energy	\$22.39

Holly Aamold motioned to approve the bills, Ben Hershey seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, presented the council with the 2024 year to date budget comparison.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that Alan Watson had reached out to him in regards to one acre of land that city has owned since 1929. Mr. Watson owns the land around this parcel. The land was used for a watering well prior to the city getting water in town. Mayor Soderberg stated this should have been cleaned up many years ago. Mayor Soderberg agreed to sell the land for \$500 primarily to cover the cost of any legal fees. City attorney, Cassie Tostenson, prepared a resolution for the sale of the land. It reads as follows:

CITY OF BUXTON

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF REAL ESTATE PURSUANT TO NORTH DAKOTA CENTURY CODE SECTION 40-11-04

WHEREAS, the City Council of Buxton, North Dakota ("City") has determined that it is in the best interests of the City and its residents to sell certain real estate owned by the City; and

WHEREAS, the sale of said real estate is authorized under North Dakota Century Code Section 40-11-04 and Chapter 1, Article 7 of the Ordinances of the City of Buxton;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BUXTON, NORTH DAKOTA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Authorization to Sell Real Estate

The City is hereby authorized to sell the following described real estate:

Commencing at a point Twenty Seven rods east of the south west corner of the Southwest Quarter of Section 25, Township 148, Range 51, thence north sixteen rods, thence East ten Rods, thence South sixteen rods, thence West ten rods to the point of beginning, All in the West One Half of the West One Half of the Southwest Quarter of Section Twenty-five, Township 148, Range 51, Traill County, North Dakota

Section 2. Sale Terms and Conditions

The sale of the above-described real estate shall be conducted in accordance with the terms and conditions approved by the City Council, which may include but are not limited to:

1. **Purchase Price:** The minimum acceptable purchase price for the real estate shall be \$500.
2. **Title and Deed:** The City shall provide a quit claim to the real estate to the purchaser upon receipt of full payment. Purchaser shall be responsible for recording quit claim deed with the Traill County Recorder's Office.

Section 3. Execution of Sale Documents

The Mayor and City Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the sale of the real estate described herein.

Section 4. Effective Date

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and approval by the City Council.

Holly Aamold made a motion to accept the resolution authorizing the sale of the real estate to Alan Watson for \$500; Jeff Siewert seconded the motion; upon a roll call vote. Ayes: Jeff Siewert, Holly Aamold, Keaton Flanagan, Ben Hershey. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion was carried. Mayor Soderberg, Jackie Siewert and Alan Watson agreed to finalize the sale and have the quit claim deed signed and notarized at First State Bank on Friday, May 10, 2024.

Jackie Siewert, City Auditor, advised the council that she had sent the new owner of the residence at 109 Ives Street a letter advising him of the past due garbage bill for his property. She also stated in the letter that the real estate agent had been advised of the past due garbage bill prior to the sale of the property. If unable to pay in full she would also work with them on a payment plan. The resident called Jackie. She explained that unfortunately the bill follows the property and if left unpaid it would go on the property taxes. Jackie told the resident that she could not adjust off any late fees without the councils consent. She invited him to the city council meeting and also suggested to the resident to perhaps reach out to the real estate agent. Ben Hershey made a motion to table this matter until the resident reaches out to the council; Keaton Flanagan seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that there has been no communication and no changes in regards to the property at 317 Broadway. Mayor Soderberg reconfirmed that a "show cause" hearing is scheduled for May 15, 2024 at 7pm. It is a public meeting and all are welcomed to attend. A copy of the resolution has been posted on the front and back of the building.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that the property located at 304 Ives Street is cleaned and in compliance with city ordinances. The hearing that was scheduled for May 8, 2024 at 11am was cancelled.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that the Midco franchise agreement is up in September. Midco had sent him a copy of the franchise agreement that they had on file. Travis forwarded it to Cassie Tostenson to review. He has not heard back from her. Ben Hershey made a motion to table the discussion of the franchise agreement; Jeff Siewert seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he is bringing the fogger to be calibrated at the Van Diest workshop Wednesday, May 15th.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he has not heard of any new reports of any new drone activity in town.

Mayor Soderberg stated that spring clean-up was a success. Three roll-offs were filled. Thank you to the residents for utilizing the roll-offs.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that the new summer light pole banners are ready to go up.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that the trailer lot is still open. There are still 2 sheds there. There hasn't been any inquiries, although, the city hasn't advertised it either. Travis stated that he hired Waslien Electric to clean-up the electrical hook-ups at the lot.

Mayor Soderberg inquired with the council if they had given any consideration to a new holiday tree previously discussed. Mayor Soderberg will look for some other tree size options that will be easier and safer to decorate.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, advised the council that she received an updated wastewater lift station service agreement from the ND Sewage Pump & Lift Station Service Company Inc. They would be providing a complete and thorough 18-point mechanical and electrical inspection of the lift station and each pump. The price has increased from \$400 to \$455. Ben Hershey made a motion to accept the updated service agreement from the ND Sewage Pump & Lift Station Service Co Inc.; Jeff Siewert seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he had a resident reach out to him in regards to dogs being left out all night barking. The resident was sent a copy of the ordinance stating that noisy dogs or cats is prohibited and advised to file a complaint with Traill County Sheriff if it continues.. Mayor Soderberg had also posted a picture on the City's Facebook of dogs in his yard that had been running around town. Jackie Siewert had also received a complaint of residents not cleaning up after their dogs. Mayor Soderberg asks all pet owners to be considerate to your neighbors and adhere to the ordinances.

Ben Hershey stated that residents need to keep their lawns mowed and weeds under control especially after this last rain.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that we have had a few inquiries on the city lots. He stated again that the lots are \$6000 per lot or all three lots for \$15,000 contingent to building a house within a year.

Ben Hershey also stated that the election will be before our next city council meeting. Mayor Soderberg confirmed that our current two members that are up for re-election, Jeff Siewert and Keaton Flanagan, are on the ballot.

Mayor Soderberg confirmed that the next city council meeting will be held on June 12, 2024 at the Buxton Fire Hall at 7pm.

Holly Aarnold made a motion to adjourn; Jeff Siewert seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

City Auditor

Council Member

Mayor