

City of Buxton
Meeting Minutes

December 13, 2023 @ 7:00 PM
Buxton Fire Hall

Present: Travis Soderberg, Jeff Siewert, Keaton Flanagan, Ben Hershey, Cole Short and James Maertens

Recording: Jackie Siewert, Auditor

Meeting called to order by Mayor Travis Soderberg

Meeting minutes from the November 8, 2023 meeting were read. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Keaton Flanagan; seconded by Jeff Siewert; motion passed unanimous.

The following bills were presented for payment:

Direct	Waste Management	\$4446.18
Direct	Xcel Energy	\$988.24
12914	A2Z Road Blading	\$525.00
12915	Acme Rents	\$275.54
12916	East Central Regional Water Dist	\$249.74
12917	Farmers Union Oil Co	\$14.95
12918	Jackie Siewert	\$9.65
12919	Midco	\$49.38
12920	Nilson Brand Law	\$553.50
12921	North Star Mutual Insurance	\$16.00
12922	Thomas Moe	\$150.00
12923	Travis Soderberg	\$74.60
12924	US Post Office	\$70.00
12925	Waslien Electric	\$15359.80
12926	Jaqueline Siewert	\$1385.25
12927	Hillsboro Banner	\$164.00
12928	Xcel Energy	\$24.81

Ben Hershey motioned to approve the bills, Jeff Siewert seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, presented the current year to date budget comparison. She stated that there were no concerns.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that the Triple VVV had reached out to him requesting to stay open until 2am for New Year's Eve which falls on a Sunday. Jeff Siewert made a motion to allow the Triple VVV and Barn N Grill to stay open until 2am on New Year's Eve; Ben Hershey seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that on November 13th Perry Johnson, a professional engineer with AE2S, conducted a structural evaluation of the Old Hardware Store property located at 317 Broadway. Mayor Soderberg read the full report to the council. Overall, it is Mr. Johnson's professional opinion that the building in its present condition, being accessible to the public without any enclosure to prevent access, poses a hazard to the community. Travis sent a copy of the letter to our attorney, Cassie Tostenson. Mayor Soderberg invited Mr. Reidhammer to attend the meeting although Mr. Reidhammer was unable to attend. Mr. Reidhammer did inquire again if the city would like to make an offer on the property. Travis' concern is the time line and integrity of the structure of the roof. Ben Hershey inquired on the possibility of asbestos. Legal fees could be \$4,000 - \$5,000 for the condemning process and drag out for several years. Mr. Reidhammer did inquire why the city is concerned now about the building and not before he bought it. The council agreed that now that they can see what's inside after the back of the building had been opened. A preliminary estimate to demo the building is approximately \$20,000. It cost \$10,000 ten years ago to demo the old city hall. According to the Traill County GIS map the true full value of the building and property is \$5,800. Mayor Soderberg was informed that Mr. Reidhammer bought the building for \$1500 from the previous owner. The Council would like to make an offer to purchase the property. Ben Hershey made a motion to offer the property owner of 317 Broadway \$3,000 for the property; Jeff Siewert seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he sent several pictures of the unkept property located at 304 Ives Street to the city's attorney. On November 9th, Cassie Tostenson, Nilson Brand Law, sent certified letters including the pictures to the property owner and the renters. They had until November 24th to clean up the property or go back to city court. No action was taken by either party. A January court date is yet to be determined.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he sent an email and followed up with a phone call to Grand Forks Housing inquiring if there would be any objections of the city installing an electronic sign on the southeast corner of their property. There were no objections. The council discussed the accessibility of power. The power source is on east side of Broadway. Power would need to be bored in if the sign was installed on the west side of Broadway. The council is still in agreement of the sign and the design. The location will be tabled until the January meeting.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that the 2023 Traill County Community Showcase is going to be held Thursday, December 14th, from 2p – 4p in Hillsboro. Gary Fuglesten and Dan Fuglesten will represent the City of Buxton. Keaton Flanagan will attend if available. The city has three 50 foot lots available for \$6,000 per lot or all three lots for \$15,000.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, advised the council that with the completion of the lift station generator installation the project total was \$43,681.96. She asked for the council's approval to transfer the Prairie Dog Funds for the completed project amount to the general checking account. Jeff Siewert made a motion to transfer \$43,681.96 from the Prairie Dog Funds to the general checking account; Keaton Flanagan seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that there has not been any recent BNSF issues.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that the north culvert has been repaired by Anderson Excavating.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that Nelson Homes is still in the process of moving out the home out of the Buxton Trailer Court.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he rented a lift to fix the Christmas tree lights. The Christmas tree lighting was held on December 1st. He thanked all who helped fix the lights including Jeff Siewert and Keaton Flanagan. He also thanked Jeff Siewert, Keaton Flanagan and Jackie Siewert for attending the tree lighting.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he submitted an application for a burn permit to the state but has not yet received any word back on the approval of it.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he replaced the American flags last Thursday. Keaton Flanagan made a motion to order 4 more American flags; Jeff Siewert seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he reached out to All Seasons about a new tree. They suggested a Fat Albert spruce. It would get about 20' diameter and 30 to 40 feet tall. The cost for the tree including the planting of it would be \$650. Mayor Soderberg stated he got the price for future discussion.

Ben Hershey advised the council that the Buxton Park Board had a meeting tonight prior to the council meeting.

Mayor Soderberg wished everyone Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! He thanked everyone for all that they do.

Mayor Soderberg confirmed the next city council meeting will be held January 10, 2024 at 7pm at the Buxton Fire Hall.

Keaton Flanagan made a motion to adjourn; Ben Hershey seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

City Auditor

Council Member

Mayor