

**City of Buxton
Meeting Minutes**

January 15, 2025 @ 7:00 PM
Buxton Fire Hall

Present: Travis Soderberg, Jeff Siewert, Holly Aamold, Keaton Flanagan

Recording: Jackie Siewert, Auditor

Meeting called to order by Mayor Travis Soderberg

Meeting minutes from the December 11, 2024 meeting were read. Jackie Siewert, city auditor, noted a correction that Ben Hershey was also present at the December 11, 2024 meeting. Motion to approve the minutes with was made by Keaton Flanagan; seconded by Jeff Siewert; motion passed unanimous.

The following bills were presented for payment:

Direct	Waste Management	\$4445.75
Direct	Xcel Energy	\$1111.19
Direct	Visa Card	\$509.19
13083	Holly Aamold	\$152.38
13084	Keaton Flanagan	\$152.38
13085	Ben Hershey	\$152.38
13086	Jaqueline Siewert	\$1385.25
13087	Jeff Siewert	\$152.38
13088	Travis Soderberg	\$692.62
13089	East Central Regional Water Dist	\$232.07
13090	Heritage Publications	\$500.00
13091	Hillsboro Banner	\$355.20
13092	Immense Impact, LLC	\$1064.00
13093	Indigo Signs	\$1596.00
13094	Midco	\$49.52
13095	Thomas Moe	\$150.00
13096	Trails County Treasurer	\$4057.13
13097	Trails County Auditor	\$750.00
13098	Xcel Energy	\$26.23

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

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, presented the council with the updated 2024 year-to-date budget final review. Jackie advised the council that she has created a budget within QuickBooks that will show a running total comparison. The year-to-date budget review that is currently being used will still be used to show the monthly totals as well.

Mayor Soderberg reviewed the webpage and the progress of the initial set-up with council. There currently is not a date scheduled for the release of the new webpage to the public.

Jackie Siewert advised the council that the owner of the property at 317 Broadway did receive the demolition invoice that was sent certified mail.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that city pay rates increases for 2025 were discussed last year. Jackie Siewert, city auditor, is currently at a monthly salary of \$1500. It was discussed to increase it to \$1750 a month. Keaton Flanagan made a motion to increase the city auditor salary from \$1500/monthly to \$1750/monthly; Holly Aamold seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous. The current rate for the mayor is \$250 per meeting. It was discussed to change it to \$325 monthly salary versus per meeting. Keaton Flanagan made a motion to change the current rate for mayor from \$250 per meeting to \$325 a month; Jeff Siewert seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous. The current rate for the council is \$55 per meeting. It was discussed to change it to \$65 per meeting. Holly Aamold made a motion to increase the per meeting pay for the council members from \$55 per meeting to \$65 per meeting; Jeff Siewert seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous. The current rate for moving and snow removal is \$16 per hour. This rate will currently remain the same.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that with the new year and the park board district now dissolved into the city a park committee will need to be designated. Mayor Soderberg has reached out to two members of the 2024 park board, Dan Fuglesten and Jeremie Larson, and both have expressed interested in the park committee. The Committee could join the council quarterly and possibly monthly during the summer if needed.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, advised the council that the 12 Days of Christmas mystery Pics was another success.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that Indigo Signs have been out and the Central Valley championship sign is lit up again.

Jackie Siewert, City Auditor, advised the council that Franklin Jonathan Howse purchased the property at 705 Neill Street on foreclosure at a recent auction. Jackie had mailed the new owner a letter to advise him of the past due 2024 charges and also advise him of the city's quarterly fees. Mr. Howse called Jackie questioning the past due balance. She explained that these were current year charges for services received by the past residents. The property owner lives in Michigan so she said that she would discuss it with the council. Jackie did have an email from Glenda Haugen, Traill County Auditor, that states she does advise anyone that purchases a foreclosed property to also reach out to the city for any other possible outstanding charges or fees. It was also discussed that it is also announced at the beginning of the auction to contact the city. The owner of the previously purchased foreclosed property located at 511 Ives Street paid the past due city balance. After further discussion it was agreed that the past due charges on the account are due from the new property owner. Jackie Siewert stated that she will also reach out to Glenda Haugen to see how this issue can possibly be avoided in the future.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that an email was received from our salesman that the Ironhide Municipal Trade-In amount for the toolcat has increased to \$5500 for 0 to 250 hours.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he received an email from Terry at TeamLab in regards to pond spraying for this summer. The quoted price for 2025 pond spraying is \$1780 which includes two sprayings. Jeff Siewert made a motion to accept Team Lab's quoted price of \$1780 for pond spraying; Holly Aamold seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous. Mayor Soderberg also expressed a thank you to Team lab for the two Scheels gift cards that were used for gifts for the winners of the 12 Days of Christmas Mystery Pics. Keaton Flanagan also inquired if this was the year that we were going to sonar the lagoon ponds to see if the bugs are working on controlling the sludge buildup. Mayor Soderberg stated that is and Team Lab had previously quoted \$500 to sonar the lagoon ponds. Keaton Flanagan made a motion to have Team Lab sonar the lagoon ponds for \$500; Jeff Siewert seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

Jackie Siewert, City Auditor, advised the council that she has gotten a few inquiries in regards to a protection plan that has been received in the mail that by appearance looks like it is from Xcel Energy. She reached out to our local Xcel contact and confirmed that this is a legitimate company that is not affiliated with Xcel but Xcel helps with the marketing. The homeowner is responsible for the mast meter box and wires but the meter itself and wires coming from the poles is Xcel's responsibility.

Jackie Siewert advised the council that the Discover Traill County books have been published. The city was given copies to give to hand out to the council members, new residents and to promote the city. The council was impressed with the great job that Heritage Publications did.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that an invitation was received from Jim Murphy with the Traill County EDC to attend the Traill County EDC Showcase February 5th from 2pm to 4pm at the Goose River Brewing Company. Travis and Keaton will try and attend.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he received a group text from Mayor Reese, Hillsboro mayor, inviting area city leaders to attend a meeting January 20th at 6pm to discuss dog and cat issues. The council discussed it and no one is available to attend.

Keaton Flanagan inquired if the generator should be serviced this spring. Mayor Soderberg stated that he will contact ACME Electric to see if they have a service tech available.

Mayor Soderberg confirmed that the next city council meeting will be held on February 12, 2025 at the Buxton Fire Hall at 7pm.

Keaton Flanagan made a motion to adjourn; Jeff Siewert seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

City Auditor

Council Member

Mayor