

City of Buxton
Meeting Minutes

November 8, 2023 @ 7:00 PM
Buxton Fire Hall

Present: Travis Soderberg, Jeff Siewert, Keaton Flanagan, Holly Aamold, Dan Fuglesten, Tammi Ensign, and Cole Short

Recording: Jackie Siewert, Auditor

Meeting called to order by Mayor Travis Soderberg

Meeting minutes from the October 11, 2023 meeting were read. Holly Aamold noted a correction to the minutes that she wasn't present at last meeting and did not second the motion to approve the October bills. Jackie Siewert looked back at her notes and noted that Jeff Siewert seconded the motion to approve the October bills. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Jeff Siewert; seconded by Holly Aamold; motion passed unanimous.

The following bills were presented for payment:

Direct	Waste Management	\$4446.18
Direct	Xcel Energy	\$956.88
Direct	Visa	\$443.92
12901	Anderson Excavating	\$742.50
12902	East Central Regional Water Dist	\$243.79
12903	Farmers Union Oil Co	\$59.17
12904	Forks Fence Co	\$1950.00
12905	Ironhide Equipment	\$6817.00
12906	Midco	\$49.38
12907	Nilson Brand Law	\$177.00
12908	North Star Mutual Insurance	\$149.00
12909	Thomas Moe	\$150.00
12910	Jaqueline Siewert	\$1385.25
12911	Steve Larson	\$4624.88
12912	Hillsboro Banner	\$170.40
12913	Xcel Energy	\$23.39

Keaton Flanagan 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.

Dan Fuglesten, General Manager of Central Valley Bean, inquired with the council if there had been any objections to the 100% tax exemption application that was presented to the council at the October 11th meeting. The council has not received any objections. Mayor Soderberg called for a second roll-call vote to accept the 5 year 100% property tax exemption; Ayes: Jeff Siewert, Keaton Flanagan, Holly Aamold. Nays: None. Absent: Ben Hershey. Motion was carried.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he has been monitoring the progress at the old Hardware store located at 317 Broadway and very little has been done since September. Mayor Soderberg reached out to Mr. Riedhammer last week and he said that he will be resuming clean-up and is still planning on installing a fence. Mr. Riedhammer called Mayor Soderberg and asked if the city would consider buying the building from him. Mayor Soderberg stated that he would need a price and also would have to discuss it with the council members. Mr. Riedhammer would like \$22,000 for it. That would not include the additional cost of having the building demoed. Mayor Soderberg also reached out to AE2S inquiring if they had a licensed building inspector. AE2S does have a structural engineer that could inspect the building as a neutral party and give their opinion on the building. Mayor Soderberg suggested that we continue with the process to condemn the building. Jeff Siewert made a motion to hire a structural engineer from AE2S to inspect the building at 317 Broadway; Keaton Flanagan seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

Mayor Soderberg presented the council with an updated quote from Stewart Signs. The quote included the blue cabinet and the sign to just state City of Buxton with no logo. The sign was also narrowed a bit. The new quote price is \$19,380.00. It is not a purchase that will be decided on this year. The city currently has it budgeted within the 2024 budget. The council is also still discussing the location of the sign.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that the backup generator is wired and operational. It has also been tested. Kirk Waslien will show Travis how to operate it.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that October 27th was a bad day for parents, students and school buses. Besides having ice and snow covered roads, the railroad crossings were both blocked by a BNSF train for over an hour and a half. Mayor Soderberg had received an email from Amy McBeth, BNSF representative, stating that they

were aware that there was an issue with the crossing being blocked and were sending a crew out. She stated that the issue was weather related and crew schedule times. Mayor Soderberg told her that the train was just too long. It was as far north as it could go and still blocked both crossings. Amy McBeth apologized. Travis' phone blew up with multiple calls from very frustrated residents. The city's attorney, Cassie Tostenson, suggested that Mayor Soderberg file a sheriff's report. Travis did. The States Attorney is going to look and see what can be done. The city is looking at legal action. Mayor Soderberg also reached out to Senator Cramer and Brian Shanilec. Senator Cramer apologized and stated that he will also talk to BNSF. Brian Shanilec had not received Mayor Soderberg's email. Throughout the day there were two more blockings. Roads were icy and had there been any emergency calls the first responders response time would have been delayed. Residents are urged to call the 800 number on the blue sign any time the crossings are blocked.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that our salesman from Ironhide delivered the snowblower on Monday, November 6th. Ironhide went over with Jeff Siewert how to hook it up and operate the snowblower.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that a new city mower is on order and is currently scheduled to be delivered in May of 2024.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that the north culvert has not yet been repaired. Mayor Soderberg had asked Anderson Excavating to fix it. It is closed for now.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, told the council that she had just received notice that Nelson Homes will be moving the trailer located at 804 Neill Street out by the end of the month. There will be a lot available in the Buxton Trailer Court.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he has created a new email to contact the mayor for any future city business. It is as follows: buxtonndmayor@gmail.com

Mayor Soderberg stated that he will install markers by the inlets in preparation for this winter's snow removal.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he is planning on putting up the Christmas lights Thanksgiving weekend.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he had spoken to Jeanne Rosholt. Last year's tree lighting was so nice. She said that it would be nice to do another tree lighting event on a smaller scale. Waslien Electric installed a photo cell on the pole so the tree lights will now come on automatically when plugged in.

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

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

City Auditor

Council Member

Mayor