

**CITY OF BUFFALO CITY REGULAR MEETING-
MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2024-MUNICIPAL BUILDING – 7:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the City of Buffalo City Common Council was called to order by Mayor Ben Holien at 7 p.m. Roll call: Jeannie Czaplewski, Larry Johansen, George Fuller and Kim Beseler. Also present City Superintendent Stan Meier Citizens present: Jon Chapman, John Kriesel, Terry Heggmen, Carolyn Squires, Carol Burmeister and Chris Haukoos.

Motion Fuller, second Beseler to approve minutes from the previous meeting. All yes, motion carried.

Citizens – Kriesel would like to ask council for pickleball facility improvements. Heggmen, Squires and Burmeister were also here for the same reason. Holien responded it will be discussed at budget but unfortunately the numbers we have back in quotes are pretty high. Burmeister has passed a few grant opportunities to the Clerk that we will review. Chapman was here to discuss taxes and his assessment and the city's tax levy. Mill rate and levy was explained. Any assessment questions must go to the assessor. He also commented on the stop sign at 24th/Humboldt. Thinks it was deliberately knocked down. It was not replaced until after the holiday weekend because the City Superintendent was on vacation.

Recreation – Fuller said a backboard was requested by the pickleball group for a practice board. He was looking into a better quality board than plywood but the group agreed plywood would work. Meier will get the practice board made and installed soon. Holien told the council that the remaining masonry work should be getting done at Foelsch Park according to the contractor. Pool financial information was discussed and will be used for the 2025 budget. Requesting the same amount as donated last year. Need 10th Street park water shut down so we don't have to retest.

Finance – Czaplewski said she looked into short term disability plans for employees. Thinks it would be around \$75-\$100 per month or both employees. Discussion on street loan from 2021 having a balloon payment after the 5th year that needs to be refinanced it. New refinanced payment due in 2027 so will be budgeted for that year. Budget meeting is this Wednesday.

Cemetery – Beseler working on columbarium estimates. Wreaths Across America will be in December at cemetery. Asked Meier about lighting in the Mausoleum. Beseler keeping mausoleum cleaned. Wreaths would like to leave flags on until the event to mark. City workers have been working on straightening the Catholic Cemetery headstones.

Building - 5 permits issued including a new home and addition to residence. Discussed a 2nd Street house project that started this last month without a building permit issued. Property owner had no idea what was going on. Have permit issued now. Committee met before this meeting to discuss fines for building without a permit. Current ordinance specifies a \$10/day fine. Committee would like to reword that ordinance to show a \$100 - \$5,000 fine per occurrence as the zoning fines are worded. Committee also discussed storage container units being placed on property. Options of only temporary or permanent while majority of committee felt they should be permanently allowed. Committee would like to see stipulations that include: pitched roof, on a foundation, some type of siding, limited to 20', only on primary residence parcel, must meet setback for a garage and not in a flood plain. Czaplewski asked if the neighbors would get any say in permits. If allowed by ordinance, they would not. Fuller said they would have to meet all the regulations to put in making them look more like a shed, which should discourage some that want to place them. Majority of state municipalities that sent us their info did not allow containers permanently. Holien isn't convinced we need to have an ordinance that would make everyone go through the hoops and require someone to monitor the conditions. He thinks it would

be better to just not allow. Committee asking council for recommendations. Ordinance can allow for short term storage, allow or not allow at all. Beseler thinks slippery slope. Czaplewski would prefer not to see them around town. Johansen doesn't feel like it's the council job to tell property owners they can't put on their property. Discussion on where the line would be drawn if someone wanted more than a shed and wanted a house built out of containers. Johansen motion to put storage shed ordinance together. Motion did not receive a second. Holien tabled the discussion until next month.

Health & Safety – Johansen went to view a yard with complaint of grass too long. Said it was not that bad but would like letter sent to remind property owner it must stay mowed in the future. Czaplewski discussed the changes to alley ordinances. After thinking about it more she thinks there could be issues if we did try to add alley upkeep into ordinances. It is the property owner's responsibility to maintain an alley, if they want it maintained. Problem with neighbors that don't cut their vegetation in alleys that others want to use. Holien wants to know if council would like to move on to writing an ordinance or not. Council did not come to a consensus and subject will be discussed at next month's meeting. Beseler questioned if letter was sent to 2nd street property. It was with no response. Johansen will go by the property to talk to them.

Public Works – Crack seal will be done next week. Meier did some work on adjacent street and property owner came out and questioned getting dirt in the alley. Say the alley isn't used due to the slope of the alley. In order to do that Meier said a culvert would be needed to keep the street and alley working. Holien questioned if access is available from other end of alley. Meier said it is. Consensus that adding culvert would be something the city has to maintain and don't want to do that. Access can be from other end.

Riverfront – Holien wanting to get Spring Lake and 2nd Street docks out as soon as possible. Get the others out around November 1st.

BBCM – Czaplewski talked to Cyrus about brush collection. He thinks the current system is working and doesn't think there is a problem with prices. Discussion continued on what the municipalities can do to offset costs and avoid having people with brush piling up or burning large amounts on their properties.

City Superintendent – Starting to prepare for winter plowing, winterizing, turning off water at cemetery and ballfields.

City Clerk – Reminder on Budget meeting and Board of Review dates. Assessor has had several calls about meeting him at Open Book next week. He has a few appointments scheduled.

Motion Fuller, second Beseler pay bills. All yes, motion carried. Motion Johansen, second Fuller, to adjourn. All yes, motion carried.

Ben Holien, Mayor

Jenny Ehlenfeldt, Clerk

date approved