

City of Buffalo
City Council Meeting
November 11th, 2024

Meeting called to order at 6:31 PM by Mayor Jager.

Council members present; Mayor Jager, Lawson, Steckler, Haseleu, Peterson;

Council members absent:

Guests present: Kittie Curfman, Jeff Ebsch, Deputy Dehn, Auditor Richman

Motion to approve October 14th, 2024 minutes by Lawson, seconded by Haseleu. MCU

Motion to approve the agenda as stated with modifications and deviate as needed by Steckler, seconded by Peterson. MCU.

Moore Engineering – Mayor Jager signed agreement and notice to proceed. There is no planned work to be started this year. Pre-construction meeting will take place in Spring 2025 with a final completion estimated of September 19, 2025. BNSF Permit needs a Environmental Compliance Plan required by BNSF as condition to receive Pipeline License Agreement for new force main crossing of BNSF Railway. Moore will retain services of Environmental Consultant. All easements have been signed.

Motion to approve Engineering Amendment #1 in the amount of \$6,300 to cover the costs of the Environmental Consultant by Lawson, seconded by Haseleu. MCU.

Council reviewed the 12 calls for service submitted by Deputy Dehn.

Park Board – will meet in November to talk about Holiday lights contest and possible ice rink.

JDA, Daycare, Buffalo Historical Society – no updates

Library – furnace no longer works, is now working towards making the closing official. There are questions about what to do with the items in the library, what to do with current funds in their checking and savings account and how to hand the levy funds for 2025 which have already been approved.

Curfman – had a water leak in the basement, the frost plate was rusty and the meter needed to be replaced but the leak was coming from the house side of the meter to supply the house. Tim's Plumbing replaced the meter because it needed to be tore apart to be fixed anyways. The repair bill will be paid for by adding \$20 per month to water bill for 6 months starting with the December 15th draft in order to split the Tim's Plumbing bill in half for this matter as the meter is the responsibility of the city.

Motion to approve the financial report and pay the monthly bills by Steckler seconded by Lawson. MCU.

- BEK \$75.09; Cass Rural Water \$2152.61; Elan Financial \$1,459.76, \$280.22; City of Fargo \$14; Fat Man Trash \$3722.78; Kasowski Tire and Service \$104.52; Midwest Pest \$65; Moore Engineering \$6378; Maple Valley Ag Chem \$28.44; NDLC \$366; Xcel \$44.01; Ohnstad Twichell \$120; Office of State Auditor \$850; Ottetail \$339.54; \$1044.93; Sign Solutions \$903.75; Tim's Plumbing \$223; Team Lab \$987.50; payroll for Steckler, Lawson, Peterson, Haseleu, Richman, Berger, Fry and Jager.

Motion to accept 1st reading of the *Annexation Ordinance: An ordinance annexing the 2.00 acre parcel of land located in the northeast quarter section 25, township 140 north, range 55 west, Cass County, North Dakota* by Steckler, seconded by Haseleu. MCU.

Junk Ordinance – work is being completed by Ohnstad Twichell for Hanson residences.

Late SWG bills – No action will be taken with Late SWG Bills

Motion to approve local event permit for Buffalo Daycare by Lawson, seconded by Steckler. MCU.

Discussion held regarding potentially amending Zoning Ordinance section 3.10 Sewer, Water and Garbage Billing to engage in additional fees for repeated late bills that are consistently 3+ months behind in an effort to curb habitual late fees. Suggested to possibly publicly post late SWG names.

Motion to approve the 1st reading of the amendments to Zoning Ordinance Section 3.10 Sewer, Water, and Garbage Billing by Steckler, seconded by Peterson. MCU.

Cass Rural Water is raising per thousand gallons rates \$0.45 starting January 1st. Richman will contact Brian Day at MAP to inquire about a rate study to be completed across the entirety of the city services billing.

BankNorth now only recognizes one signature checks and it will be up to the City to continue with two party checks to monitor it within the organization. The City will continue to monitor and use a two party check signature moving forward.

December City Council Meeting is Wednesday, December 18th @ 6:30 PM

Motion to adjourn at 7:32 PM by Lawson, seconded by Haseleu. MCU.

Harmony Richman, Auditor