City of Buffalo

City Council Meeting

December 11th, 2023

Public Hearing Meeting

City of Buffalo Public Hearing Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Jager.

Council members present; Mayor Jager, Steckler, Haseleu, Lawson; Guests present: Taylor Braaten, Lee Fischer, Candy Bloom

Taylor Braaten from Moore Engineering held a discussion regarding the proposed force main replacement project.

November 2021 – City replaced pumps in their lift station.  
Spring 2022 – The City experienced failures in both pumps – Moore Engineering evaluated the lift station and force main system.

Topics covered included:

* Current issues – there is a 4” ACP pipe along the force main which the pumps have had to pump an extreme amount of water through an undersized pipe diameter which caused the pumps to fail. There should be a 6” PVC pipe.
* Work that will be completed – Open trench installation was selected to replace the existing force main with a larger 6” PVC for main through a combination of open-cut and boring.
  + Option 1 Do nothing – City would continue to operate the system as they do today, continuous cost of maintenance if nothing is done, risk additional pump or force main failures.
  + Option 2 Open trench installation – smaller pipe boring would be used at specific locations, more competitive bids, minimal environmental impacts
  + Option 3 Directional drill installation – fewer surface impacts that open-cut installation, provide safe operation and maintenance, adhere to OSHA standards
* Environmental Impacts – 10 agencies have been contacted for input on the environmental impacts
* Estimated costs – total project cost $1,330,000
* Funding – Eligible for RD Loan and Grant; Up to 45% grant - $598,500 with 55% loan - $731,500,
* Repayment – RD loan can be achieved by applying special assessments to properties with local share to be covered by potential special assessment of approximately $30 per property per month with about 121 properties. The City will certify the final assessment amount.
* Schedule –
  + Funding Confirmation 2023
  + Preliminary Design and Final Design – Winter 2024
  + Bidding – Spring 2024
  + Construction – Summer 2024

Motion to adjourn public hearing at 6:30 PM by Haseleu, seconded by Steckler. MCU.

City of Buffalo Council Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM by Mayor Jager.

Council members present; Mayor Jager, Steckler, Haseleu, Lawson; Guests present: Taylor Braaten, Lee Fischer, Candy Bloom, Deputy Gabby Dehn, Deputy Nitschke, and Auditor Richman.

Motion to approve minutes from November 13th, 2023 by Lawson, seconded by Haseleu. MCU.

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

Moore Engineering: waiting for Rural Developments input within the contracts and public input hearing. Working with the city for the lead line survey, all documents have been given to Moore and are currently scanning documents.

Cass County Sheriff

* Introduced to our new city Deputy, Deputy Dehn.
* There were 42 calls for service that were discussed; 4 traffic, 1 warrant, 14 building checks, 1 theft, 1 animal, 1 medical. There were 22 calls of concern this month.
* There has been a significant increase in burglaries within the area - if you see something, say something.

Park Board – Holiday Lights Competition

Historical Society, Library, Park Board, JDA – no updates

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

* BEK $44.96; Butler CAT $1,862.46; Cass Rural Water $2,422.85; Cardmember services $372.70; Cass County Reporter $231.73; City of Fargo $14; Fat Man Trash $3,908.92; Hydrant Mechanical $10,026; KGR $241.33; ND One Call $8.55; NDLC $355; Xcel $100; Ottertail $151.43, $1,144.10; Water Users Association $100; Payroll for Richman, Berger, Jager, and Steckler

Junk Ordinance

* Hanson property at 604 Pearl St and Elevator property - Visited with Del Losing about taking Neil Hanson directly to District Court would cost about a couple grand, this would be best to take up in the spring after the snow.

Discussion held regarding late sewer water garbage bills:

* Account 168 water was turned off and only partial payment was made, an invitation to appear at council was sent, did not attend.
* Motion to shut off account 76 and 126 on Friday at 5PM, if accounts are not paid in full by Steckler, seconded by Lawson. MCU.

Cats have gotten worse again, will reach out to local humane societies about live trapping and housing.

Tables were not put back in order after the past two events the grocery store “hosted” events. A letter a will be sent to the store board the request for waiver has been tabled for until next month and if they’d like to still have the waiver approved to attend the January council meeting.

Motion to approve the Application for Coverage for the State Bonding Fund for a requested coverage of $91,446.52 for Auditor Richman by Steckler, seconded by Lawson. MCU.

Motion to approve the Old 10 Beer and Liquor License for 2024 by Steckler, seconded by Lawson. MCU. A reminder will be included that the yearly license does not include special off-site permits which must be approved at a council meeting prior to the event taking place.

Discussion held regarding advertising public works supervisor a draft will be sent out to council for approval before publishing on or about November 27th.

Advertisement for Public Works position will be posted soon with applications to be reviewed at the January 8th council meeting where a special meeting will be set afterward for interviews.

Next City Council Meeting is Monday, January 8th @ 6:30 PM.

Motion to adjourn at 7:14 PM by Steckler, seconded by Lawson. MCU.

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Harmony Richman, Auditor