City of Buffalo
City Council Meeting
March 10th, 2025

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

Council members present; Mayor Jager, Steckler, Peterson, Haseleu
Council members absent:
Guests present: Auditor Richman, Bill Boyer

Motion to approve February 10th, 2025 minutes by Steckler, seconded by Peterson. MCU

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

SWG Late Discussion with the Boyer’s and a plan to get caught up and review the amended SWG ordinance. Will be able to pay in full by Friday, March 14th.

Moore Engineering – Still waiting on the permits from BNSF.

Council reviewed 30 calls for service from February. We have been assigned Deputy Jesse Quittschreiber as our assigned liaison deputy.

Discussion held regarding bore ash disease and possible tree replacement (see flyer in the office). Additional grant funding could be available if we are a Tree City USA city. Many tress are near the end of their life and a base estimation is about 85% of boulevard trees in town are ash trees.

JDA – Moore Engineering has now plotted and platted the Ernie land.

Daycare – potentially will be breaking ground soon as they are working on submitting building permit application for the vacant lot next to the housing unit. Will need a physical address assigned to it.

Motion to assign the physical address to the Buffalo Daycare building to be 101 Wilcox Ave by Haseleu, second by Peterson. MCU.

Motion to approve the financial report and pay the monthly bills and include normal billing from Ottertail when it arrives by Steckler seconded by Haseleu. MCU.

* BEK $152.08; Cass Couty Reporter $82.88; Cass Rural Water $2431; Elan Financial $233.47; City of Fargo $14; Fat Man Trash $3722.78; Kasowski Tire and Service $64.35; Moore Engineering $7707; Xcel $552.97; $143.29; Ottertail $33.21; payroll for Richman, Berger, and Fry.

Motion to raise the water rate from $4.75 to $5.50 per thousand gallons to answer the rise in rates from Cass Rural Water effective March 10th by Steckler, seconded by Haseleu. MCU.

Midwest Assistance Program has provided the council a rate study for the Sewer, Water and Garbage accounts.

Dates for spring clean up were discussed to confirm with Fat Man Trash before advertising of May 20th, 21st and 22nd.

Junk Ordinance – no updates

Late SWG bills – discussed late fees, invitation to next council meeting and possible shut offs to accounts #21, #66, #66, #73, #77, #126 and #176 if bills are not paid in full by March 15th, 2025.

Discussion held regarding possible ebill and epay options for SWG billing integration with NexBillPay. Discussed pros and cons with fees.

* Paperless Billing
	+ Initial set up $300 – (would be covered by the City, a onetime set up fee).
	+ Paperless billing fess at $0.10 per bill. Currently, postcard stamps are $0.56.
	+ Customers can elect to receive ebilling or we can enroll them in ebilling. Some communities require everyone to receive ebilling – not sure that is appropriate for our community.
* There is a $100 minimum processing fee that we need to meet each month. It is $2.75 per payment online and goes to reduce the $100 processing fee
	+ If we have at least 37 payments online each month we would not be charged.
	+ If we have less than 37 payments, we would be charged $100 – ($2.75 x number of online payments held).
* Integration
	+ Simple ($125): This option allows for you to export your balances to the NexBillPay’s website so they can verify your customer’s balances when accepting payments on your behalf. You will need to manually post the payments into RVS as they are received.
* Concerns regarding how often payments are applied into the bank account and the complexity of when SWG bills are paid online will that go directly into the bank and how it might look as Harmony enters payments on the SWG manually into RVS software and then needs to be further decomposed into their appropriate funds in Quicken. This is why batches of payments are input about weekly within the city. This could be done daily; however, schedules do not allow for daily input into the RVS software system.

Motion to approve the hall rent waiver for the Buffalo Food Market on April 1st for Freezer Meal fundraiser benefiting the Buffalo Food Market by Steckler, seconded by Peterson. MCU.

Discussion held regarding the advertisement for blading needs for the upcoming season. Jager and Steckler will send a advert request to Fargo Forum, Casselton and Valley City papers.

Tax Equalization Meeting is April 14th @ 6:30 PM

Next City Council Meeting is Monday, April 14th immediately following Tax Equalization Meeting

Motion to adjourn at 7:48 PM by Steckler, seconded by Peterson. MCU.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Harmony Richman, Auditor