

December 03, 2001

The City Council of Buffalo, IA, met in regular session on December 03, 2001, at City Hall at 7:01 p.m. with Mayor Hoover presiding. Councilmen present were Kimes, Sheeder and Teel. Councilmen absent were Greer and Roe.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given and 15 seconds for reflection.

Motion was made by Teel and Sheeder to approve the minutes of November 05 and 08. All present aye. Carried.

Motion made by Sheeder and Teel to approve payment of the listed bills. All present aye. Carried.

Linn Kinkennon gave the Community Center report. She said everything is going okay, and there will be no bingo during December, as they close during December for this.

There was no treasurers report as the statements were not ready in time. The report will be put in the mailboxes at City Hall.

Motion was made by Sheeder and Kimes to approve the renewal of the beer license for EZ Way Store. All present aye. Carried.

There was discussion of Larry Sextons request not to have to pay sewer charges on the K of P Hall building he purchased some years ago, as the building is not occupied. To date, he has refused to pay the sewer bill. Mayor said we have ordinances on record that deal with this, and until they are changed, they must be enforced. Teel said he was told this afternoon of all the possibilities that could arise of buildings/houses not occupied for short times that could request the same exception. He said we have many senior citizens that pay their sewer bills from a limited income. Motion was made by Sheeder and Teel to table this until January for the new Council to decide on changing the ordinances. This motion was then rescinded. Motion was then made by Teel and Kimes to strike this from the agenda. All ayes. Carried.

Dwain Bollman gave the public works report. He said a fire hydrant had been hit and broken off at the end of Spruce Street by someone, but had an automatic shutoff and we didn't lose the water. He said all the Christmas decorations were up now.

Motion was made by Kimes and Sheeder to approve Resolution #31-2001. Voting yes were Kimes, Sheeder and Teel. Absent, Greer and Roe. Carried.

Bollman told Council he wants them to make the decision of either tagging the electric meters for disconnections or pull the entire electric meter? If we pull the entire meter, the homeowner must make corrections in the electric service to meet the Code, and probably 90% of the buildings would not meet that Code. This could cost several hundred dollars or more to get corrected before the electric service is turned back on. The Iowa Utilities Commission says to pull the entire meter and corrections to be made before reconnection. Sheeder said this could present a hardship on some of the customers to be pulled in the coming winter months. This is usually only done for non-payment of the utility bills. Bollman said he would abide by the Councils decision, but does not want the decision on his shoulders. After some time, motion was made by Teel and Sheeder to proceed as is until April 01 and then reevaluate the problem. At present we mostly just tag the meter and disconnect that way. All voted aye. Carried.

Motion was made by Teel and Sheeder to approve the carryover to next year for Bollman for three unused vacation days if he cannot use them up this month. All ayes. Carried.

Council and Mayor was given the names of two residents who have not paid their bills this month and was told to make the decision of what to do with them, as there was too much nonsupport last month when we did disconnections. Council was told we sent out 96 notices for the first late notice this month, (a record), 78 of the second late notices were sent out, and there were six this morning that had still not paid, or made arrangements. Council was sent a list of these notices each time with the names and a grand total amount of money for them all each time. This will be done each month. Motion made by Teel and Kimes to disconnect tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. All ayes. Carried.

Motion was made by Sheeder and Teel to approve Resolution #32-2001. Voting yes were Sheeder, Teel and Kimes. Absent, Greer and Roe. Carried.

Gage Adams gave the police report. He said his officers will be getting training on Tuesday for defibrillators. Motion made by Teel and Kimes to table the insurance at this time. All ayes. Carried.

The park board report was given by Cathy Stowe. She said they are getting prices for equipment for the westend mini park. The trees have been trimmed and/or removed.

There was discussion of having an electric committee meeting and/or an ordinance committee meeting for required deposits on utilities. City Attorney McCullough was present to discuss this with Council. Right now we charge a deposit of the highest water, highest sewer and highest electric in one month for the previous twelve months that someone has occupied the building. We can charge up to four months deposit on sewer and water. There was discussion as to which committee should meet on this item. The utility committee needs to decide as to how many months usage should be paid for in advance for a deposit before it goes to the ordinance committee. There was discussion from a couple of people in the audience about deposits. As we have two Councilmen absent tonight, no meetings were set for committees.

Committee reports have already been discussed during the meeting. Mayor gave his report. He told the audience he and the Council received a notice from the Clerk that all cemetery lots have been sold and none are now available. He told Council he would like to have a special council meeting on January 02 to swear the new members into office and approve the miscellaneous items for the old council. This will be at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall. Sheeder will contact Roe to hold a Cemetery Committee meeting as soon as possible.

Public input was asked for. Ken Bernauer asked Teel if their decision on the Sexton property meant he had to pay the sewer bill? Teel said yes it does. Diana Stowe told of two complaints she filed and wanted to know what had been done with the first one and if Council had checked into it yet and what would be done? Council said they had not checked into it. Much discussion followed concerning her complaint. City Clerk Carol Bernauer said for the past two regular meetings, she and the deputy clerk have been on trial without benefit of a jury and their discussion. This is not the procedure for handling complaints and Council and Mayor should find out the proper procedure to handle them, and not the way its been done the past two months. Some residents asked why the clerks have not been allowed to speak during these two meetings. Motion was made by Teel and Sheeder to adjourn at 8:37 p.m. All ayes. Carried.

Attest: Carol A. Bernauer
Carol A. Bernauer, City Clerk,
Buffalo, IA

Signed: Daid Kimes
Ted J. Teel, Mayor ProTem, Buffalo, IA

Amsterdam Printing, 8.63; Quad-City Times, 82.36; Bankers Trust Co., 16,055.00; City of Buffalo, 277.89(Supplies); Teri Jones, 89.50; City of Buffalo, 85.50(meter deposit refund); Officemax, 266.66; Treasurer, State 1578.00; IPERS, 3764.40; Bi-State, 30.00; Scott County Engineers Office, 1027.40; International Confernece of Building Officals, 85.00; Treasurer State of Ia, 3131.00; City of Buffalo, 77.59(supplies); Wal-Mart, 72.24; Tom Zuber, 570.00; MidAmerican, 1070.89; Quad-City Times, 270.17; EFTPS, 4034.42; Purchase Power, 1019.00; Pitney Bowes, 91.85; Wal-Mart, 62.62; K&K Hardware, 37.34; J.A. Reno, 660.58; Culligan, 26.00; Builders Sand & Cement, 1604.51; Linwood Mining, 247.71; Stetson Building, 561.51; Computer Management, 1402.62; The Outhouse, 75.00; Fletcher-Reinhardt, 321.36; Pitnev Bowes, 153.05; John Deere Health, 5804.23; AT&T, 65.50; QWest, 774.94; Veenstra&Kimm, 1409.67; Iowa One Call, 23.00; Xerox Corp., 17.00; Internet Revealed, 25.00; Republic Co., 27.78; A-1 Fire Equip., 144.40; First USA Bank, 193.63; Batteries Plus, 10.29; Zuber Lumber, 507.62; City of Buffalo, 54.03(supplies); Menards, 55.10; Prairie Waste Ser., 3496.35; Uniform Den, 6.00; Olderog Tire Ser., 299.58; Calls, 492.91; WearGuard, 888.33; Quad-City Times, 191.87; U.S. Cellular, 17.80; Builders Sand, 761.46; Broghammer, Jonas, 850.00; Arch Wireless, 9.33; Freds Towing, 50.00; Conoco, 6.90; Du-All Press, 108.55; Racom, 130.00; AT&T, 78.29; U.S. Cellular, 285.09; Kings Tree Ser., 5900.00; Quality Construction, 64,327.08; Mid-Minnesota Wire, 5997.98; OfficeMax, 103.71; Menards, 77.27; U.S. Cellular, KJWW, 3,037.04; Electric Pump, 52.00; Veenstra&Kimm, 3,979.20; River City Ford, 184.38; Meyer Oil, 478.72; Superb Ser., 113.65; T&R Electric, 9580.00; EFTPS, 1946.52; EFTPS, 2298.08; Linwood Mining, 565.53; S.J. Smith, 40.00; Terminix, 35.00; MidAmerican, 16,353.02; AT&T, 47.64; Menards, 77.27; Lowe's, 240.83; Teamsters Local #238, 258.00; Veenstra&Kimm, 11,998.79;