

January 07, 2002

The City Council of Buffalo, IA, met on January 07, 2002, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall with Mayor Ted Teel absent. Dave Kimes presided as Mayor ProTem. Councilmembers present were Kimes, Roe, Smith, Stowe and Thein. Absent, none.

Motion was made by Roe and Thein to approve the minutes of January 02. All ayes. Carried.

Motion was made by Roe and Stowe to approve the renewal of the Community Center liquor license. All ayes. Carried.

Motion was made by Roe and Stowe to approve Resolution #01-2002, "APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR PROTEM". All voted yes on a roll call vote. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Roe and Stowe to approve Resolution #02-2002, "DESIGNATION OF THE CITY DEPOSITORIES". All voted yes on a roll call vote. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Roe and Thein to approve Resolution #03-2002, "DESIGNATION OF CITY COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS & BOARD". All voted yes on a roll call vote. Carried.

Motion was made by Roe and Stowe to approve Resolution #04-2002, "RETAINMENT OF ALL CITY EMPLOYEES, DEPARTMENT HEADS, FIRE CHIEF AND BUILDING INSPECTOR". All voted yes on a roll call vote. Carried.

Lynn Kinkennon gave the Community Center report. She said they will start having bingo again this month, after being closed during December. She had a bid for the floor cleaning, but since it wasn't on the agenda, it will be on the one for 01/15.

Dwain Bollman, Public Works Director, gave a report. He said this is the first time in four years they have not been called out during the holidays for any emergencies, such as plowing, salting, etc. He told of inflow at the school, which will be discussed at a committee meeting.

Bollman said the Council needs to discuss options for cemetery space. This will be done at a closed meeting on January 15, including sidewalk needs for the hill area going to the new school.

Roe said the new budget needs to be held in line, as everyone has been cutting back and this will affect our taxes and new budget, and all departments should keep that in mind.

Gage Adams, Police Chief, gave his report. He told of a stolen vehicle that hit two mailboxes, and was dumped behind the school. He said the police officers will be taking two squads to Phil Hoovers funeral tomorrow.

Roe said he believes the police department should have the owner of the property's approval before pulling traffic violators into their parking lots to give out tickets during their safety/stop checks. Some of the violators that receive tickets take it out on the clerks at the business where this has been done. Motion was made by Roe and Stowe to get permission from the owners of the property before this is done. All voted aye. Carried.

Smith discussed the need for a city newsletter and needs volunteers to get it started. A deadline date needs to be determined to accept news and to see if enough information could be obtained for a set number of pages. This will be on the January 15 agenda for an update.

Smith said she would like to get a committee together to move Buffalo Days to late August in order to get more participation, as there are so many other events around July 04 and everyone is competing for participants and crowds. She will try to get a committee together and report back to the Council on January 15.

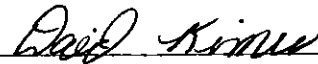
The clerk reported there were no disconnects scheduled for this month. Everyone had made arrangements or other plans were made.

Discussion was held on Dale & Diana Stowes contesting of \$37.24 for a utility bill balance for their rental house at 805-5th St. Mrs. Stowe explained why she didn't think they should have to pay the bill. Mayor had a meeting with the two clerks and the Stowes to discuss the bill, and the city attorney has been consulted at length on this. Many questions were asked of the city attorney, William McCullough, about rules for this. He explained the state laws on this, and the City codes. Some of our ordinances need to be changed on deposits for utilities to cover the city losses on customers that move and don't pay their bills. McCullough said the clerks are doing their job following the City codes. This would set a precedent for others if they were not required to pay this bill. Motion was made after some time by Roe and Kimes that Stowes be required to pay this bill. Voting yes were Kimes, Roe and Smith. They voted no, and Stowe abstained due to being a relative. Motion carried.

The following dates were set for meetings: January 15 at 5:45 p.m., open and going to a closed session: January 15 at 7:00 p.m. for a water/sewer committee meeting. January 22 at 5:00 p.m. for an ordinance committee and at 6:00 p.m. for a park/cemetery/community center committee meeting.

Public input was asked for. Judy Hammons said she is for an annual celebration, but hopes the fireworks stay on the Fourth of July. Linda Mullanack said not to put the utility deposits too high or people won't rent the houses from the owners, and why do we have ordinances if the state over rides them. She was told for a deposit, we can request up to 3 months bills for water and sewer. Bernauer asked Council if all of the City employees have the option of going to the funeral tomorrow? Most of Council felt if an employee wished to go, they would have to use vacation hours or personal hours, but would not get paid otherwise for attending. Some of the audience said they felt the same way, that they have to use their own time. Motion was made by Roe, seconded by Stowe, to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. All ayes. Carried.

Signed: _____



David Kimes, Mayor ProTem, Buffalo, IA

Attest: _____



Carol Bernauer, City Clerk, Buffalo, IA