

March 07, 2005

The City Council of Buffalo, IA, met in regular session on March 07, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor ProTem Cathy Stowe presiding. Mayor Betty Walters was absent. Councilmembers present were Chris Carson, Mitch Greer, Judy Hammons, Cathy Stowe and Dana Jo Wiese. The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Motion was made by Carson and Wiese to approve the minutes of February 07, 16 and 22. All voted aye. Carried. After inquiries on some of the bills, motion was made by Carson and Stowe to approve them for payment. All voted aye. Carried.

Public input was given by several of those residents present. Motion was made by Greer and Stowe to have the city clerk use the contingency fund to pay for the bereavement memorials in February. All voted aye. Carried. The city clerk wishes the Council to designate someone else to be in charge of this. Motion was made by Greer and Stowe to have the clerk continue to be in charge of this. All voted aye. Carried. She will make up the list of who these are usually sent to.

Motion was made by Hammons and Greer to donate \$400.00 to the annual Easter Egg Hunt that Tom Harland organizes each year. He has agreed to continue the hunt for this year, but wishes someone else to take it over next year. The funds will come from the option tax fund. All voted aye. Carried.

The public works report was given by Dwain Bollman. He reported on the various jobs for the previous month. Roy Farnum discussed with Council a problem of damage being done on the 5th Street hill in the 800 block. The neighbors maintain this hill that is known as Fifth Street, but is too steep to actually be used as a street, and is mostly grass. Motion was made by Greer and Wiese to have the City install several barricades at the top of the hill and some removable ones at the bottom of the hill so in the winter the bottom ones can be removed for children sledding on the hill, and yet vehicles cannot be using it to make deep ruts in the hill. All voted yes on a roll call vote. Carried. The city attorney will also be contacted about turning this property over to the neighboring property owners.

Motion was made by Wiese and Stowe to approve the insulating of the steam lines at the B.A.C. for \$1480, and to come from the option tax funds. This is being done in conjunction with the other work that is being done there on the boiler system. All voted yes on a roll call vote. Carried.

Stowe reported on a problem of vehicles parking on Jefferson Street hill, North of Fourth Street, during school hours. It's very difficult to get two school buses thru there when someone is parked there. It will be discussed at the next ordinance meeting.

Motion was made by Greer and Hammons to approve Resolution #6-2005, "A RESOLUTION FOR TEMPORARY EMBARGO". This is a normal springtime occurrence. Voting yes were Carson, Greer, Hammons, Stowe and Wiese. Motion carried. It will be put into effect when ground conditions require it.

The Clerk asked Council if they wish to increase the deductible on the city's coverage for all City land, buildings, vehicles, from \$250 and \$500 deductible to \$1,000 deductible. After discussion, motion was made by Stowe and Greer not to change it. All voted aye. Carried. This would have saved approximately \$2000 on the premium.

Council discussed the rental property owners who have not paid the \$10.00 license fee and who also owe the \$75.00 penalty and what to do about it. As this was discussed for many months and has been in the minutes for many months, motion was made by Stowe and Greer to have one more letter sent to the owners, telling them they have 30 days to pay the fees, or the City will possibly begin eviction orders for the unpaid rental properties. If an owner feels they have reason for appeal, they should contact Tom Zuber for this. Voting yes were Hammons, Stowe, Wiese, Carson and Greer. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Wiese and Greer to discuss an ongoing concern of Wiese's.

The Council discussed the drainage and the grade of Franklin Street in the 800 block, with the Public Works Director and the City Engineer, Leo Foley. Foley said a storm water study for a curb and gutter project would run at least \$300,000 to do both sides of Franklin Street from Fifth Street to Enfield Drive. We would have to get property on both sides of the street, possibly from easements, that would be required to make the street wide enough, plus moving all the utilities that are now there. Some cities have assessed the property owners that have frontage along the street a percentage of the cost, possibly running up to \$100 per lineal foot of frontage area. Another possibility is selling bonds and paying for it through property taxes. A quick fix could be done, but there would still be stormwater problems when it rains. Council will have the Street Committee set a date for a meeting concerning this area sometime later this month.

Motion was made by Greer and Stowe to have Council seriously consider annexation of the entire Buffalo Fire District. This would add a large amount of taxing area for the City. The motion also included having the City Council instruct the City Attorney to issue a letter of intent for this involuntary annexation of the above area. Voting yes were Carson, Stowe, Wiese, Greer and Hammons. Motion carried. Greer will contact the City Attorney to proceed.

Council discussed the mulch pile to be moved around the park playground equipment. Gage Adams, Police Chief, will contact Scott County to see if we can get some of the work release people from the Scott County Jail to help with this when the soft ground is more suitable for equipment. Adams then gave Council his monthly report, and told them the police department will be going to a class in Des Moines later this month for training.

Council discussed cell phones again and had Bollman read a letter he had given to Council concerning them. Committee reports were asked for. Stowe reported that Lynn Kinkennon said both coolers at the Buffalo Community Center went down and needed repaired immediately, and the cost would be around \$1200. As they don't have the funds, they would like to cash in a certificate of deposit to pay the bill. This will be on the agenda for March 14. Motion was made by Stowe and Greer to extend the meeting past 9:00 p.m. All ayes. Carried. There was no Mayors report as she was absent.

Public input was again asked for and given by some residents and Councilmembers present. Motion was made by Greer and Hammons to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 p.m. All voted aye. Carried.

Signed: _____

Virginia Cathy Stowe
Mayor ProTem
Buffalo, IA

Attest: _____



Carol A. Bernauer, CMC
City Clerk
Buffalo, IA