

City of Buxton
Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2024 @ 7:00 PM
Buxton Fire Hall

Present: Travis Soderberg, Holly Aamold, Keaton Flanagan, Ben Hershey, Cole Short and James Maertens

Recording: Jackie Siewert, Auditor

Meeting called to order by Mayor Travis Soderberg

Meeting minutes from the February 14, 2024 meeting were read. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Keaton Flanagan; seconded by Ben Hershey; motion passed unanimous.

The following bills were presented for payment:

Direct	Waste Management	\$4318.42
Direct	Xcel Energy	\$1066.83
Direct	Visa	\$715.34
12955	Central Valley Post Prom	\$200.00
12956	East Central Regional Water Dist	\$278.03
12957	Midco	\$49.39
12958	Nilson Brand Law	\$443.50
12959	Thomas Moe	\$150.00
12960	Xcel Energy	\$24.33
12961	Jaqueline Siewert	\$1385.25
12962	Anderson Excavating	\$2805.00

Ben Hershey motioned to approve the bills, Holly Aamold seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, presented the council with the 2024 year to date budget comparison. Jackie pointed out to the council that the year to date general taxes received so far is very close to the amount budgeted for the year. Jackie also advised the council that statements were mailed out March 11th to any accounts with past due balances. She has also let residents know that if they wish to pre-pay the quarterly fees they are certainly welcomed to. There are a couple of residents that pay for the year in advance.

Jackie Siewert advised the council that she spoke to First State Bank in regards to the CD's that had maturity dates for February and March. The CD that matured in February was still under the grace period to cash out. Jackie authorized the bank to cash out the February and March CD's within the grace periods of their maturity dates and then with the combination of the existing funds received from the CD's and general funds established two new CD's for \$10,000 each at 5.15%.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he has not communicated with Mr. Dennis Riedhammer, owner of the property located at 317 Broadway, and that there has not been anything done to property. Mayor Soderberg also advised the council that Nilson Brand Law has drafted a resolution setting just cause hearing for dangerous building. He read it as follows:

RESOLUTION SETTING JUST CAUSE HEARING FOR DANGEROUS BUILDING

LOCATED AT:

317 BROADWAY, BUXTON, NORTH DAKOTA

WHEREAS, the Building Inspector has submitted a report describing the condition of the building located at 317 Broadway, Buxton, ND; and

WHEREAS, the Buxton City Council has received pictures of the building located at 317 Broadway, Buxton, ND;

WHEREAS, the Building Inspector's report indicated that the building located at 317 Broadway, Buxton, ND meets the definition of "dangerous buildings" as set forth in the Buxton City Ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the owner of the buildings located at 317 Broadway, Buxton, ND will receive the above report and a notice of the Just Cause Hearing, which will be mailed to Riedhammer Masonry, 404 2nd Avenue NE, East Grand Forks, MN 56721 by Certified Mail Return Receipt and affixed to the building or buildings located at 317 Broadway, Buxton, ND on March 21, 2023;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Buxton City Ordinances, all "dangerous buildings" are declared to be a public nuisance; and

WHEREAS, the City of Buxton desires to avail itself of the power to abate the nuisance created by the “dangerous buildings” located at 317 Broadway, Buxton, ND; and

WHEREAS, in order to demolish the building or buildings located at 317 Broadway, Buxton, ND, it is necessary to set a date for a “show cause hearing” as to why the building or buildings located at 317 Broadway, Buxton, ND should not be demolished.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Buxton that a “show cause” hearing on the proposed demolition of the building or buildings located at 317 Broadway, Buxton, ND be set to take place May 15, 2024 at 7 p.m. City staff are directed to give written notice to the owner, occupant, mortgagee, lessee and all other persons having an interest in said building as shown by the records of the County Recorder of the County of Trail to appear before the Buxton City Council on May 15, 2024 at 7 p.m. at Buxton City Hall to show cause why the building or buildings located at 317 Broadway, ND should not be demolished in accordance with the Building Inspector’s report. City staff is directed to publish notice of this hearing in the Hillsboro Banner at least 15 days prior to the above-described hearing.

Council member Ben Hershey questioned the location of the meeting, Buxton City Hall. Mayor Soderberg stated that we conduct our city business at the Buxton Fire Hall. Ben Hershey made a motion to change the location of the hearing on the resolution from Buxton City Hall to the Buxton Fire Hall; Keaton Flanagan seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous. With the location of the hearing changed to the Buxton Fire Hall, Ben Hershey made a motion to accept the resolution setting just cause hearing for dangerous building located at 317 Broadway; Holly Aamold seconded the motion; upon a roll call vote. Ayes: Keaton Flanagan, Ben Hershey and Holly Aamold. Nays: None. Absent: Jeff Siewert. Motion was carried. Ben Hershey inquired if we knew what the approximate overall attorney fees were going to be for this. Mayor Soderberg stated that the estimated fees will be \$4000 - \$5000.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that city court for the unkept property located at 304 Ives Street had been held this morning, March 20th at 11am at the Buxton Fire Hall. Judge Thomas Moe imposed a \$500 fine for each of the three violations (\$1500) and also gave the property owners 30 days to have the property cleaned up. A compliance hearing is scheduled for May 8, 2024 at 11am at the Buxton Fire Hall. If the property has been cleaned up prior to this date the hearing may be cancelled upon notice from the City of Buxton.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that the Buxton Park Board had met at 6pm this evening and voted on and passed a resolution to dissolve the Buxton Park District. Therefore the city needed to pass a resolution on the dissolution of the Buxton Park District. Jackie Siewert, city auditor, read it to the council as follows:

THE CITY OF BUXTON
RESOLUTION ON THE DISSOLUTION OF THE BUXTON PARK DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the City is in receipt of a Resolution to Dissolve the Buxton Park District adopted by the Buxton Park Board pursuant to N.D.C.C. 40-49--07.2;

WHEREAS, the Resolution to Dissolve the Buxton Park District included an approval of a Plan of Dissolution;

WHEREAS, the City of Buxton under the requirements of N.D.C.C. §40-49--07.2 is to submit the question of dissolution to the electors of the Buxton Park District at the next general election.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BUXTON THAT:

1. It adopts and approves the Park District’s Plan of Dissolution;
2. That the following question be presented to the electors of the Buxton Park District at the next general election:

Question for Voter Consideration:

Shall the Buxton Park District be dissolved?

☐ YES

☐ NO

3. That the auditor is directed to publish the Plan of Dissolution in the Hillsboro Banner not less than two weeks and no more than thirty days before the date of the election.

Keaton Flanagan made a motion to pass the City of Buxton Resolution on the Dissolution of the Buxton Park District; Holly Aamold seconded the motion; upon a roll call vote. Ayes: Keaton Flanagan, Ben Hershey and Holly Aamold. Nays: None. Absent: Jeff Siewert. Motion was carried.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that the annual tax assessment meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, April 10th at 7:00pm at the Buxton Fire Hall with the regular city council meeting to follow.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that the letter of intent for centralized county assessor that was received from the Traill County Equalization for assessment year 2025 for \$3390.00 was tabled from the February meeting. Holly Aamold made a motion to accept the letter of intent for centralized county assessor for 2025; Keaton Flanagan seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that there had been an inquiry on the available trailer court lot although it didn't work out for the interested party. The lot still needs to be cleaned up. Nelson Homes moved the trailer from the lot but left all of the concrete and wood blocks that were under the trailer. When asked to come back and clean the site up they didn't remove them but neatly stacked them by the two storage sheds that were also left behind. Mayor Soderberg stated that we can clean up the lot this spring with the bobcat toolcat. Jackie Siewert suggested a Facebook post for first come first serve on the remaining items.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that Nokota Packers had asked him to write a letter of support for a grant they were applying for to help get some new equipment. Nokota Packers is a big part of our community. Mayor Soderberg wrote the letter and has since received a thank you from Nokota Packers. They received the grant.

Mayor Sodberg advised the council that he has not received any further information from CNS (Cooperative Network Services) in regards to them running the fibre optic line through Buxton.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, received authorization papers for the 2024 mosquito spraying from Vector Disease Control International. The authorization papers do not commit us to aerial spraying. It is the necessary paperwork that needs to be completed prior to any sprayings. Ben Hershey made a motion to complete and submit the authorization papers from Vector Disease Control International for the 2024 mosquito spraying; Keaton Flanagan seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, received a letter in the mail from the Central Valley Post Prom committee asking for donations for the 2024 post prom event. Ben Hershey made a motion to donate \$200.00 to the 2024 Central Valley Post Prom; Holly Aamold seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, advised the council that there is currently a grant called the Rural Slum and Blight Removal Grant. Its purpose is to help support local governments and non-profit organizations in addressing blighted properties. Demolition and removal would be covered under this grant. Although the city doesn't have an eligible project at this time it is something to look into for any future projects.

Mayor Soderberg discussed spring clean-up with the council. It was confirmed that graduation is May 19th. We have been typically scheduling the roll-offs the weekend before graduation. The council would preferably like to have to roll-off containers May 11th, but if need be we could do it May 4th. Jackie Siewert will reach out to our Waste Management rep for the availability for roll-off containers for either of those weekends.

Mayor Soderberg confirmed that the next city council meeting will be held at April 10, 2024 at the Buxton Fire Hall following the Tax Equalization Meeting that is schedule for 7pm.

Holly Aamold made a motion to adjourn; Ben Hershey seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

City Auditor

Council Member

Mayor