

**City of Buxton
Meeting Minutes**

January 11, 2023 @ 7:00 PM
Buxton Fire Hall

Present: Travis Soderberg, Keaton Flanagan, Ben Hershey, Jeff Siewert, Holly Aamold, Cassie Tostenson and Cole Short

Recording: Jackie Siewert, Auditor

Meeting called to order by Mayor Travis Soderberg

Meeting minutes from the December 14, 2022 meeting were read. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Jeff Siewert seconded by Ben Hershey; motion passed unanimous.

The following bills were presented for payment:

Direct	United States Treasury	\$1538.25
Direct	Waste Management	\$4181.27
Direct	Xcel Energy	\$1029.62
12761	A2Z Road Blading	\$235.42
12762	East Central Regional Water Dist	\$266.05
12763	Farmers Union Oil	\$22.05
12764	Midco	\$48.79
12765	Mike Hovet	\$400.00
12766	Thomas Moe	\$150.00
12767	Traill County Treasurer	\$3155.55
12768	Traill County Tribune	\$147.75
12769	Traill County Auditor	\$750.00
12770	Workforce Safety	\$250.00
12771	Xcel Energy	\$25.09
12772	Ben Hershey	\$152.38
12773	Holly Aamold	\$152.38
12774	Jaqueline Siewert	\$1385.25
12775	Jeff Siewert	\$152.38
12776	Keaton Flanagan	\$152.38
12777	Travis Soderberg	\$692.62
12778	Nilson Brand Law	\$150.00
12779	VOID	VOID
12780	Anderson Excavating	\$8752.50

Keaton Flanagan motioned to approve the bills, Holly Aamold seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, reviewed the current year to date budget comparison.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, advised the council that after the tax exempt certificate was turned in for Chad and Amanda Wheeler's property the tax exempt amount was questioned by Kayla Knudson, Traill County Tax Equalization Director. With the City of Buxton just recently introduced a resolution changing the 2-year tax exemption on new homes from \$75,000 per year to \$150,000 per year she questioned the amount the Wheeler property qualified for.. Holly Aamold made a motion to allow the Wheeler property to be tax exempt for \$150,000 per year for the first two years; Jeff Siewert seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous. Cassie Tostenson, city attorney, also reviewed with the council a remodelling tax exemption resolution. It would apply to commercial buildings 25 years or older, renovations of 10% or more of the value or residential property renovations of \$5000 or above. No motion was made.

Cassie Tostenson, city attorney, discussed with the council the proposed amendment of the overnight parking on city streets ordinance. Cassie stated that without a fulltime police department it is difficult to enforce it. She suggested modifying the existing ordinance from 48 hours to 24 hours. Cassie also stated that letters to residents for problems such as street parking, unkempt lawns, etc. is a good first step and a lot of times will correct the issue. Overnight RV parking on city streets was also discussed. Cassie Tostenson advised the council that she will revise the parking ordinance to 24 hours and look into overnight RV parking.

Cassie Tostenson also advised the council that at any time the mayor can issue a snow emergency notice for no street parking and that would override the current street parking resolution.

Mayor Travis Soderberg advised the council that he attended the monthly meeting for ECRWD to discuss the unpaid invoice sent for two asphalt repairs that resulted from water line break repairs totalling \$6000. He also brought a copy of the ordinance stating that any excavation should be restored to its original condition. At the ECRWD meeting Mayor Soderberg was told that the company has a policy against paying for asphalt paving. Mayor Soderberg was also asked why the water supplier's customers should pay for the city of Buxton's street repair bill. ECRWD was going to discuss this matter with their attorney. City Attorney, Cassie Tostenson, told the council that she feels the

city appears to be on solid ground legally. She stated that when your tear up a highway you have to put the right of way back. Cassie also stated why should the residents in Buxton be responsible for street repairs caused by a water main break the ECRWD repaired. Council member Ben Hershey stated that the City of Buxton has the funds to pay for the \$6000 invoice from Opp Construction but was concerned of the precedent it may set if we pay for the street repairs. Cassie Tostenson didn't believe the city paying the paving bill would constitute a waiver of the city's ordinance. Mayor Travis Soderberg said that his biggest concern is that last April Neil Breidenbach, the water district's system manager, notified him that the glue used to connect the city's water pipes is failing. This may prompt all the city's water lines to be replaced. Who would be responsible for street repairs then? The city of Buxton is just going into their second year of a 20 year assessment. Mayor Soderberg also pointed out that we aren't asking for ECRWD to pay for an asphalt overlay of the entire city. Mayor Soderberg asked Cassie Tostenson to contact the attorney for the ECRWD in an attempt to find a resolution to the unpaid invoice.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that the Traill County Showcase sponsored by the Traill County Economic Development is still scheduled for Janaury 12, 2013 from 2pm – 4pm with set-up beginning at 1pm. Mayor Soderberg reached out to Mike Bibow at AE2S to print a poster of the city of Buxton and fliers for the city lots for sale. The city lots are \$6000 per lot or \$15,000 for all three lots. Gary Fuglesten stated that there are two (2) 150 foot lots are for sale for \$37,500 each. Ben Hershey asked if there were any building restrictions. Mayor Soderberg stated that the lots are zoned for residential and as with any other home it must have a permanent foundation. Also, as with any other plan it has to be approved by the council. Ben Hershey, Jeff Siewert and Keaton Flanagan stated that they would be available to be there to represent the City of Buxton.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that late December the tornado siren was sounded for a fire call instead of the fire siren. A solid siren is a tornado siren and an up and down siren is a fire siren. Council member, Holly Aamold, asked if there was a way we could remind residents of the different sirens. Mayor Soderberg asked Jackie Siewert to include it in the next quarterly Buxton Beat. Council member, Ben Hershey, also suggested that we conduct a test siren periodically.

Mayor Soderberg stated that BNSF replied to his previous email in regards to the rail crossing on County Road 21. BNSF is planning on replacing the crossing. It was originally planned for late summer/fall of 2022 but will now be completed in the spring of 2023.

Mayor Soderberg stated that he reached out to the current park board president in regards to when the next meeting is going to be held. A meeting has not been held since the elections in June. Travis has had many residents reach out to him in regards to who is on the park board. A functioning park board is important.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, stated that the 2nd annual 12 Days of Christmas Mystery Pics was a success.

Mayor Soderberg stated that he has not received any updates on the Christmas lights and donations. The estimated cost of the lights and the lift rental is \$2300. Once the lights are taken down they will be donated to the city for use next year. It will be the city's decision on the install.

Mayor Soderberg stated that he received several snow removal complaints between Christmas and New Year's. On December 28th, Travis reached out to Anderson Excavating to clean up the alleys. The alleys were never cleaned. On December 30th, Travis called Mike Hovet to clean out a few alleys. The alleys need to be open for propane deliveries and emergencies. Jeff Siewert drove around and mapped out alleys that needed additional cleaning. Anderson Excavating came in and completed the additional cleaning.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he would be around this weekend and with the mild temperatures would like to take the city Christmas lights down.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, was contacted by an Ironhide Sales Rep. She forwarded his contact information to Mayor Soderberg. Mayor Soderberg is looking into replacing the John Deere Gator with a Bobcat Toolcat with a snow blower attachment. He stated that they are expensive but could be a multipurpose piece of equipment with the variety of attachments that are available. Additional information will be obtained for future discussions.

Mayor Soderberg confirmed the next city council meeting will be held February 8, 2023 @ 7pm.

Jeff Siewert made a motion to adjourn; Holly Aamold seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

City Auditor

Council Member

Mayor