



CITY OF BUFFALO MISSISSIPPI

**BUFFALO CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**April 04, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the City of Buffalo City Council was called to order on April 04, 2022 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the City Center at 212 Central Avenue.

The following members were present: Council Members Teri Lachermeier, Nick O'Rourke, Scott Enter, Steve Downer. Absent: Jameson Wakefield.

Also in attendance: Administrator Laureen Bodin, Assistant Administrator Taylor Gronau, City Clerk Susan Johnson, Community Planning & Economic Development Director David Kelly, Finance Director Kelly Horn, Sergeant Josh Erickson, Parks and Rec Director Lee Ryan and Water Superintendent Cara Hesse.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Lachermeier expressed condolences to Chief Pat Budke's family on the passing of his father.

**OPEN FORUM**

No one was in attendance for the Open Forum portion of the meeting.

**AGENDA ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS-None**

**COUNCIL REPORTS AND RECOGNITION**

Student Liaison Scherber reported that BHM schools are on spring break this week. Knowledge Bowl Team is going to state this Thursday and Friday.

Council Member Downer reported that the MMPA Board met, and the Board approved a resolution requesting that MMPA member cities extend their power sales agreements with the agency through December 31, 2060. The current agreement goes through 2050. MMPA's debt is secured by its power sales, agreements with members, and the agency expects to make capital investments financed with 30-year debt during the next 8 years. This is just an information item that's not ready to come to Council at this point.

Council Member Downer mentioned the Clean Energy Choice program. Customers in Buffalo can get 100% clean energy now for a few dollars a month. Check out the City's website or call for details. The electric crew got a thermal camera that they can use to view connections and transformer to be proactive with problems. The fiber teams have been busy. All lift stations are

communicating very well now with the SCADA system, which is a supervisory control data acquisition system.

Mayor Lachermeier recognized the Electric Department for a call she received from a resident who had a power outage. She said a call was made to the emergency on call number and power was restored within 45 minutes. A resident in the audience said she had a similar experience recently and her power was also restored within 45 minutes and the Electric Department staff was very friendly.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Council Member Downer moved to approve the consent agenda; seconded by Council Member O'Rourke.

**Approval of March 21 Meeting Minutes**

**Approval of Claims Listings**

**Council Meeting ~ 04/04/2022**

<b>Payroll Dates</b>	<b>Paid Date</b>	<b>Payroll =</b>	<b>\$288,773.60</b>
3/6/22 - 3/19/22	3/24/2022		
	<b>Payroll Withholding ~ Incl in Payroll</b>		

<b>A/P Check Runs</b>	<b>EFT/DRAFTS</b>	<b>Checks</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Check Numbers</b>
03.21.2022		\$78,749.00	\$78,749.00	126701-126702
03.21.2022		\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00	126703-126704
03.29.2022	\$311,625.04	\$535,901.99	\$847,527.03	126723-126811
03.24.2022	\$127,469.30	\$17,500.15	\$144,969.45	126705-126722

**Call for Hearing on Past Due Accounts**

**PUBLIC HEARING APRIL 18, 2022**

<b>PROPERTY ID</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>AMOUNT*</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
103-123-003080	2006 Goldfinch Dr	\$620.20	Utilities
103-163-002010	1800 11th Street NE	\$231.59	Utilities
103-500-202402	1414 Pulaski Rd	\$395.80	Utilities

\*Amount plus interest at 6%. A \$40 filing fee has been included in the above amounts in the event they are not paid in full by November 30, 2022.

<b>Jameson Wakefield</b>	<b>Nick O'Rourke</b>	<b>Scott Enter</b>	<b>Steve Downer</b>	<b>Teri Lachermeier</b>
Absent	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

The motion carries 4-0-1.

**REMOVED CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS-None**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS-None**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Approval of Contract for Airport Master Plan Update**

Assistant Administrator Gronau reviewed the Council's direction at the last meeting for staff to draft a contract with Bolton & Menk to update the Airport Master Plan. The Scope of Services did not change from the proposal submitted. Total fees are \$120,000, \$6,000 would be the City's share. It should be noted that this was included in the CIP for \$200,000, so this came in under budget. FAA's share would be \$108,000 and State share would be \$6,000. The FAA requires the City to obtain an independent fee estimate. This estimate was obtained from Sambatek, Inc. in the amount of \$122,000 which is within range of the Bolton & Menk proposal.

Staff recommends the Council approve of the contract with Bolton & Menk in the amount of \$120,000 to update the Airport Master Plan.

Council Member Enter moved to approve of the contract for the Airport Master Plan Update, seconded by Council Member Downer.

<b>Jameson Wakefield</b>	<b>Nick O'Rourke</b>	<b>Scott Enter</b>	<b>Steve Downer</b>	<b>Teri Lachermeier</b>
Absent	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

The motion carries 4-0-1.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**2022 Municipal State Aid Street System**

Consulting Engineer Justin Kannas reviewed the Municipal State Aid Street System which tracks and distributes State Aid funding from the Highway User Tax Fund to municipalities with populations greater than 5,000. With the new development in the last year, the City's total street miles increased, and we are eligible to claim additional State Aid segments as well as alter routes to maximize funding.

He reviewed the proposed County Road Turnback of Bradshaw Avenue: Former County Road 147 – from 10th Street South to Settlers Parkway; 10th Street South – from Trunk Highway No 25 to Bradshaw Avenue (0.34 miles) and Bradshaw Avenue – from 10th Street S to Settlers Parkway (0.24 miles) designated as Municipal State Aid Streets; and revoking part of MSAS 149: Crossroads Campus Drive – from 6th Avenue NE to CSAH 35 (0.23 miles).

It is recommended that the Council adopt Resolution 2022-11-Revoking Municipal State Aid Streets and 2022-12-Resolution Establishing Municipal State Aid Highways.

Council Member Downer moved approval to adopt Resolution 2022-11-Revoking Municipal State Aid Streets, seconded by Council Member Enter.

<b>Jameson Wakefield</b>	<b>Nick O'Rourke</b>	<b>Scott Enter</b>	<b>Steve Downer</b>	<b>Teri Lachermeier</b>
Absent	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

The motion carries 4-1-0.

Council Member Downer moved approval to adopt Resolution 2022-12- Establishing Municipal State Aid Highways, seconded by Council Member Enter.

<b>Jameson Wakefield</b>	<b>Nick O'Rourke</b>	<b>Scott Enter</b>	<b>Steve Downer</b>	<b>Teri Lachermeier</b>
Absent	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

The motion carries 4-1-0.

### **Water Conservation Initiatives**

Water Superintendent Hesse said that staff has been working on making residents more aware of water conservation efforts. She reviewed the new irrigation permits and the major change will be for all new irrigation systems put in. The materials that are required to be used are approved by the EPA and reduce water consumption by 30%. Direct read meters will be required, and this will be enforced.

She discussed conservation efforts such as a \$50 credit to utility bills for irrigation with inspection by city staff, even/odd watering ordinance May 1 to October 1, 30-day exemption for new seed/sod for new development or homeowners changing landscape, (staff will work with developers as we did last year for installation of sod), encouraging developers and existing homeowners for other options beyond sod like native planting or pollinator pockets. Wright County Soil and Water District is involved, working with Parks Department regarding ways to conserve in our park system. Education sessions are planned at the Community Center for June and July on how to reduce water usage and have a beautiful landscape.

The DNR says that Minnesota is still in drought, so we need to stay vigilant with our conservation efforts. The aquifer looks good, and the Water Plant is ready for summer. She reviewed the summer of 2021 when the aquifer dropped 4.5 feet in a week and a half's time. The DNR put restrictions on throughout the state. We purchase water from the DNR and they are our governing body. It isn't free so we need to follow their restrictions or they will take away our permit.

Mayor Lachermeier asked what the fee increase was for the irrigation permits. Hesse said that the fee is \$1 less.

Council Member Downer asked how the meet and greet went with contractors. Hesse said there was a good turnout, and the biggest thing is the added cost of the meter. They were open to it and understand the need for conservation.

It was noted that the odd/even watering will include people around the lake, and staff will work on educating those property owners. Overall conservation education will continue through social media, website, and utility billing inserts.

No action is needed by the Council.

**STAFF UPDATES**

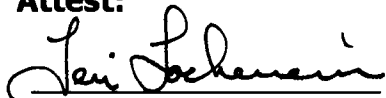
Staff gave general updates to the Council.

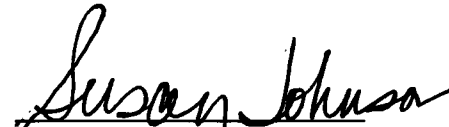
**OTHER-None**

**ADJOURN**

Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:47 PM.

**Attest:**

  
Teri Lachermeier, Mayor

  
Susan Johnson, City Clerk