

Minutes of the Buffalo City Council held January 3, 2023 at 6:00pm.

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm by Mayor Rodriguez

Present Joe Buffington, Brandon Berg, Mary Moore, Ted Teel, Austin Miller (excused). Also present Chief TJ Behning, Sgt. Bujalski, Public Works Director Josh Ferkel and City Clerk Tanna Leonard.

Nuisance Abatement

Council discussed the issue of grass and timely mowing of properties.

Council recommended changing the ordinance to publish and post a notice that property owners within the City of Buffalo must maintain their grass 6" or less and that if it surpasses 6", Public Works will mow it and fees would be charged to the property owner. Council discussed the height and changed it back to 10". With this amendment there would be no mailing of notices to the property owners for a warning, it will just be mowed for them. Fees were discussed, and a rate was decided \$75.00 per hour, two hours minimum. Clerk to work on amendments and further discussion may be had at the next council meeting.

For the remainder of nuisances there was discussion on adding the language "the mayor, public works director, and police chief, would be responsible for identifying code violations". This amendment would change the current complaint-based policy, although complaints would still be reviewed.

Discussion was held about cars parking on grass and the potential hazard for emergency services. A proposal was made to add the following:

6-3.0109(12) No operable or inoperable vehicle shall be parked on the grass. It must be parked on gravel, asphalt, or cement.

A comment was made for the exception, for instance a family gathering. Discussion was held for a period of extension possibly 24-48 hours. No decision was made.

Utility Disconnect Process

There was discussion on streamlining the disconnection process for electric, water, and sewer. Increasing penalties, reducing the period prior to shut off, and fees related to disconnection.

The proposed changes would be as followed:

1. Bills due on the 20th
2. If unpaid at that point a penalty of \$10 would be charged per water and sewer service. A 12-day shut off notice would be mailed by regular mail or email whichever the customer has signed up for.
3. Customer contacts city hall and arranges a payment agreement (entire bill divided by 12, the new bill plus the portion of the delinquent amount is due each month on the 20th)
4. If a payment agreement is not made or the bill left unpaid by the date identified on the 12-day notice, a 48 hour door hanger will be posted on the account. A fee of \$25 per water and sewer utility will be charged to the account for this notice.
5. If after the 48 hour notice the bill is left unpaid and there is no payment agreement, the utilities will be disconnected.

Council also discussed an incentive to encourage customers to sign up for auto bill pay.

There were also discussions about sending delinquent accounts to collections and addressing renter's utilities that can't be assessed as liens.

Motion by Moor and seconded by Teel to adjourn the meeting at 7:31. Motion carried unanimously.

****NOTICE**** These are discussions, and no ordinances have been changed at this time. If you would like to provide input, please contact a city council member or the mayor.

Sally Rodriguez, Mayor

Tanna Leonard, City Clerk