

****A summary version of these minutes was published in the Quad City Times to save publication costs, this is the detailed version. ****

Regular meeting of the Buffalo City Council meeting called to order by Mayor Sally Rodriguez at 6:02pm on October 09,2023. A meeting was held at the Buffalo Community Center to be able to accommodate additional residents. Present were Council Members Joe Buffington, Rachel Teel-Vanderpool, Mary Moore, Austin Miller, and Ted Teel. Also present were City Attorney William McCullough, City Engineer's Mike Janecek and Jay Brady.

Mayor Rodriguez thanked everyone for attending the meeting and appreciated that there was such a good turn out from the public to learn what was going on with the water utility. She explained that there were issues with the water utility and that there was a press release that was sent out along with a form letter from the IDNR. She explained that they would summarize the circumstances, provide updates, and then have a period where people could come up and ask questions. Rodriguez went over the press release.

Ferkel reported that for PFAS/PFOA's they have been testing quarterly and results have been under the 4 ppt that is mandated by EPA. During the last quarterly testing PFAS levels tested at 8ppt and triggered a Drinking Advisory Statement to be issued by the City. During the regular meeting in September, it was on the agenda and he briefed the council on the testing results and the letter that would follow.

Jay Brady described PFOA/PFOA's and how they are occurring in our environment and how it is used in many waterproof clothing and containers. He explained that after Well #1 went down and the raw testing was performed, they discovered that the grout was failing in the well and it was proposed to install a new well casing to help reduce the bacterial and PFOS/PFOA's entering the well system. Brady also explained that well #2 tests fine for all regular tests for drinking water, however, has a larger amount of iron increasing the discoloration. Currently we were waiting to hear back the results of PFAS/PFOA's for Well #2. Those results would take approximately two weeks to come back, and the public would be notified of those results.

Brady explained that the health advisory definition for PFOA/PFOS are long term chronic issues, not an immediate health effects of illness immediately.

Rodriguez asked how water would get contaminated and to explain. Brady migrating from unknow sources, or due to grouting.

Rodriguez asked if there was any additional input from the staff or council, there were no additional comments. Rodriguez moved that they open the floor for comments. The public could come to the microphone, state their name, and address the council and staff.

Wendy Lowe addressed the council about the high hardness of the water, affecting appliances, water softeners, water heaters, coffee pots, and other appliances. She had her water tested and it was 37 and normally should be .5. Ferkel explained that they have an iron filter on well #2 and they flush it daily to help reduce the iron. They also have an option to cap off the well to help with the iron content, but that none of these would affect the hardness of the water.

Janie Nesbitt from Janie's Café said that the water is ruining her equipment, is visually unappealing, and she is purchasing bottled water. Ferkel explained that FDA doesn't regulate bottled water. Janie asked if she would be reimbursed for her expenses.

Jim Rogiers asked if both wells were from the same aquifer and if PFAS/PFOA's are heavier or lighter than water. Brady said that he would have to check that information.

Dave explained that he has a private well and asked if our aquifer is artisan and how many aquifers are under us right now. Do all deeper wells have high iron and hardness locally and how can I get testing for my private well. Brady explained that he should contact the Scott County Health Department and they should be able to work with him to get testing.

Mally explained that she has worked at Clarks Landing and the hardness of the water was just so hard on the equipment and that even with the water softener that she has, it still doesn't help. She also suggested that the city provide monetary assistance to businesses to work through this.

Bobbi Carson said that she lives by Well #2 but had no idea where Well #1 was and asked when we found out that the well was compromised because she had heard that even previous administration had explained the issue. Ferkel shared that Well #1 is located just to the south of the Police Station. As for the previous issues that were identified in the system, Art Horst identified the Iron issue and had new baffles, aeration tank and media installed with the goal to have both wells alternating. That did not work as well as hoped. The goal was to have both wells online and alternate each time the water tower needed filled. The updates to Well #2 were not successful in removing the reddish tint from the iron. Carson asked how the water is piped, Ferkel explained that they only shared a small portion of pipe.

Tammy Kress asked about the health risks of our current water, especially for people that may already have weakened immune systems. Will the city be providing bottled water for people and pets to drink. What about safety risks with showering with the water. Good news is that as far as we know Well #2 does not have PFAS over the drinking advisory levels. What else should we be considering while we are waiting for the new results to come in and what levels are hazardous. Brady said that he is not a toxicologist, so he didn't have the exact answers but that the EPA website has a lot of information about how the compounds affect individuals. Brady explained that the effects from PFAS were a long-term exposure, and that short term exposure would be less dangerous. For medical concerns talk to your physicians. Kress asked if there were systems available to remove PFAS activated carbon filter for drinking or cooking water, or reverse osmosis filtration systems that can remove the PFAS. Kress asked the future plans for the water system and how could we get water from a different well. Brady explained that they would study the area and look at alternative well locations.

Karen Constantino said that she lives across the street and what does that mean when the alarm goes off and what does that mean when it happens for hours. Ferkel explained that from water tower to water plant there are antenna's that have difficulty communicating because of the trees. In his latest contract he is moving the transducers so that it will alleviate communication issues. The alarms tell us that the water is a certain level in the water tower.

Bartleson, said that Davenport water is 2.6 ppt and asked if it is an acceptable level. Brady explained that those levels are within the acceptable range. Bartleson asked if anyone thought about asking Iowa

American water to supply our water. Rodriguez said that is an option they could look into. He explains that when he was on council a few years back they were always replacing pumps and filters.

Monica Kurth, State Representative for Buffalo attended a conference where she learned about PFAS. In terms of health risk currently 95% of the population has detected pfas. What it does is it creates a greater risk of cancers. She didn't think we need to be extremely concerned but determine where these contaminants are coming from. Sewage sludge is spread on farm fields as fertilizer and 21,000 acres of farms are fertilized. Considering our geological layers these fertilizers can get into our water source. We need to work on filtering systems. She said that yellow water is disgusting but is safer than PFAS that you can't see. Area that we didn't know about until recently and we need to study. Rodriguez suggested she look for funding to assist us.

Sean Roman asked why well #1 went down in the first place. Ferkel explained that there was a phase lost on the electric system and it burned up the pump. He immediately contacted a well contractor because every time a well goes down you need to have the water tested. The results did not come back good, and they shocked, and flushed but results continued to be inadequate. The well contractor requested testing to determine infiltration, and the results were positive. They then televised the area and prepared to do the regrouting and install a new well casing. Roman asked why there were not back up generators on the system. Ferkel reported that currently there is not a backup generator on the system. It has been talked about in the past but, no funding was there for it or it wasn't approved, this opened their eyes of something that they need, Ferkel believed there was some grant funding for that and Tanna was looking into that. Roman asked how far along are we with reverse osmosis to implement that? Ferkel explained that if PFAS continues to be an issue, it will be our next step. The carbon system has a price tag of \$1M with \$70-\$90K per year additional operation maintenance. Water quality is one thing I wanted to improve upon when I came here. Roman asked if it had been looked at in the past. Ferkel said it may be something that we need.

Tony Follis asked if we had looked into the long-term effects of PFAS. Ferkel said that he could check with EPA website. Follis asked how we would know if we dug a new well, that it would be better. Brady, they would do studies and look at options. There would be options to look at a deeper formation in the water system or treatments for other waters.

Ted Teel asked if Davenports number from Iowa American were an average or is that per test. Brady reported that our numbers were from individual tests, but not for sure how Davenports are reported or taken.

Wendy Lowe said that she had one more question if it is stuck in our pipes will we be like Michigan. Brady said that one thing to remember is that this is with raw water that hasn't been treated. As for the long-term issues like in Michigan that we didn't have much for lead services, so he didn't see a comparable concern.

Patty Payton said that it seemed like it has been going on for few months, but it seemed like the communication was delayed. Can we expect future communications, with less delay? Ferkel explained that part of the slow return is waiting testing results, the letter from IDOT informing us what form needed to be sent, additionally over 400 letters went out and there were illnesses, within staff. He apologized for the delay and added that as soon as the new results are in, he will get them to City Hall for a press release.

There were unorganized questions and comments by residents that did not identify themselves and notes were unable to be obtained.

Cindy Mendez expressed that she is struggling and worried about closing. She wanted answers and plans to move forward to keep her systems operational.

Ted Teel said that he had his water softener tested and it was just as hard three months ago as it was last when it was just tested, so the water hardness hasn't changed.

There was additional unorganized chatter.

Brady explained the intent is to seal off the shallow water infiltration to the system.

Additional questions with no identification.

Ferkel explained a little more information about how they run/operate the system. Additionally, he explained how the water is tested. Consumer confidence report is published annually in the quad city times, as required by law.

Public Input

Olin Meador asked about the crown on Dodge Street and if they were planning on removing that since it is so much higher than the sidewalk. Janecek explained that they weren't removing much of the crown because it would be better if there was a preexisting base to overlay. Janecek didn't see an issue with the slope of the crown.

Patty Teel commented on the road closure and traffic control or lack thereof. Rodriguez said that she has discussed with staff a future plan on street construction traffic control.

Well #1 Liner

Motion by Teel and seconded by Miller to approve the cost of \$83,405 to do the liner and regrouting on well #1. Motion carried unanimously.

Tree Hearing Request

Motion by Miller and seconded by Teel to table the tree hearing requests until the next council meeting. Motion carries unanimously.

Pay Request Taylor Ridge Paving

Motion by Buffington and seconded by Moore to approve the first pay request for Taylor Ridge Paving in the amount of \$39,741.54. Teel questioned if the area behind the curbs would be repaired. Janecek explained that there were still several issues and additional work to be completed, and that behind the curb would be repaired. Motion carried unanimously.

Halloween Parade

Motion by Teel and seconded by Rachel Teel-Vanderpool that the Halloween parade be October 29, 2023 @ 4:00pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Fire Prevention Week

Mayor Rodriguez explained that Steve Stebens attended the Community Development meeting and requested that they pay for some fire safety materials for the event that BVFD hosts at the elementary school. Motion by Teel and seconded by Miller to approve \$1,500 as recommended by Community Development for Fire Prevention week.

Resolution 2023-47

Motion by Teel and seconded by Buffington to approve resolution 2023-47 approving the budget amendment for FY24. Motion carried unanimously.

561 Barndominium 3rd Reading

Motion by Miller and seconded by Teel to approve the third reading of 561 Barndominiums. Motion carried unanimously.

562 Community Development Allowance 2nd Reading

Motion by Miller and seconded by R. Teel-Vanderpool to approve the 2nd reading of Community Development allowance. Motion carried unanimously.

Payment of Claims

Motion by Teel and Seconded by R. Teel-Vanderpool to approve the payment of claims. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Moore and seconded by Buffington to adjourn the meeting at 7:28PM


Sally Rodriguez, Mayor

Tanna Leonard, City Clerk

Claims

7G DISTRIBUTING	alcohol	569.85
A & A AIR COND & REFRIG	Ice Machine Rental	105.00
ADVANCED Business Systems	copier	432.84
ADVANCED TRAFFIC CONTROL	water main break on 22 & clark	6,800.00
AFLAC	aflac	233.20
ALEX AIR APPARATUS INC	fire hose	85.15
ALLTEST	crt & drug fanning, eno	540.00
Altorfer Inc	charge AC for cat 299 skid steer	640.04
ARNOLD MOTOR SUPPLY	hyd oil for street sweeper	191.98
Bi-State Regional Commission	dues	275.50

Central States Funds	HEALTH INSUR.	15,235.20
Buffalo, City of	utilities	611.68
CORNERSTONE	slab work on shelter	16,780.00
Culligan of the Quad Cities	conditioner rental	28.75
DAHL FORD	2024 tahoe ignition fix	864.90
IRS	FED/FICA TAX	12,657.18
Electric Pump	west end lift station repair	528.00
ERA	ph test	126.16
Fletcher-Reinhardt Company	electrical connectors	490.00
Grainger	high surface pump fuse	285.00
GWORKS	annual license fee	8,881.00
Hach Company	colorimeter	741.64
HARSCO	slag for BAC alley	95.17
HAWKINS INC	chlorine bottles	140.00
IA CHILD SUPPORT Recovery Unit	CHILD SUPPORT	54.81
IAMU	dues	556.00
IMEG	water system assessment	3,699.50
INTOXIMETERS	drygas	125.00
Iowa One Call	iowa one call	18.20
IPERS	IPERS	7,932.64
ITRON	software maintenance	2,613.60
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	water hydrant	420.95
Kirby Water Conditioning	salt	165.50
Linwood Mining & Minerals	1" down rock for stock pile	82.62
LL PELLING CO.	cold patch	1,588.00
MALLORY BARTLESON	rock n roll bingo	127.88
MARTIN & WHITACRE	street project	24,527.58
McCleary Excavating Co.	water main brake, hydrant repla	6,443.00
McCullough, William	attorney fees	1,050.00
MEGHAN MARTIN	BAC cleaning	450.00
MENARDS-Davenport	hose, concrete mix	403.11
MENARDS - MUSCATINE	lights, nozzel & gloves	119.92
MID AMERICAN	Utilities	3,100.87
P & K MIDWEST	john deere lawn mower	12,050.00
PS3 Enterprises Inc	park	1,915.07
QC Analytical Services	operator	1,892.00
QUAD CITY SAFETY	cable, glasses	704.06
Quad City Times	proof of sept mins	491.41
R & L LEGAL PROFESSIONALS	lawsuit against JT Builders	145.00
R.P. LUMBER	shop supplies	13.55
Racom Corporation	boat radio	7,699.01
Republic Services #400	trash	7,557.30
ROSS MEDICAL SUPPLY CO,	oxygen	91.65

Resale Power Group of Iowa	electricity	40,850.02
SAFE BUILDING LLC	sept inspection	150.00
Treasurer, State Of Iowa	Sales Tax	2,215.03
Scott County Library System	semiannual taxes	23,851.00
SCOTT COUNTY SHERIFF	booking fees	75.00
CARDMEMBER SERVICE	pickle ball	1,921.72
SOURCENOW	ink	155.06
STAPLES	copier paper	380.00
Treasurer, State Of Iowa	STATE TAXES	1,937.29
TC AUTO	2018 Tahoe oil change	81.09
TITAN MACHINERY	backhoe hose	120.00
TOWN & COUNTRY	backhoe tires (front)	566.90
Uniform Den	uniform allowance Jay Wilson	85.50
Utility Equipment Company	valve for main brake	7,825.62
VERIZON	phone	447.04
Visa	water treatment training	195.00
WESTRUM LEAK DETECTION	leak detection	1,700.00
WEX BANK	fuel	2,723.23
WINSOR GROUP CONSULTING	3 phase deposit refund	625.98
Zimmer & Francescon Inc	iron filter float control	2,062.82

Accounts Payable Total 241,344.77

001 General Fund	121,985.03
002 Buffalo Days	1,450.00
006 COMMUNITY CENTER	2,035.76
110 Road Use Tax Fund	1,778.94
147 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	152.88
311 PORT SECURITY GRANT	4,135.51
600 Water Utility Fund	43,124.70
610 Sewer Utility Fund	14,324.20
630 Electric Utility Fund	52,183.26
640 Storm Water Utility Fund	174.49

TOTAL FUNDS 241,344.77

Revenues

May

General Fund	151,601.28
Community Center	2,497.00
Road Use Tax Fund	14,596.73

Employee Benefit Fund		8,928.08
Local Option Sales Tax		25,072.03
Community Development		6,268.01

Police Savings	500.00	
Debt Service Fund		50,000.00
Perpetual Care Fund		1,000.00
Water Utility		14,216.59
Sewer Utility		14,189.44
Electric Utility		41,270.51

Storm Utility	485.07	
	\$ 330,624.74	

June		
General Fund		76,178.02
Buffalo Days		5,000.00
Community Center		2,419.75
Road Use Tax Fund		18,154.96

Employee Benefit Fund	679.04	
Local Option Sales Tax		24,921.78
Community Development		6,230.45
Water Utility		15,071.45
Sewer Utility		35,146.08
Electric Utility		40,070.32

Storm Utility	606.37	
	\$ 224,478.22	