

City of Buffalo City Council Regular Meeting Minutes October 12, 2026. Mayor Sally Rodriguez called the regular meeting of the Buffalo City Council to order at 6:00 PM. Present were: Mayor Sally Rodriguez, Council Members Rachel Teel-Vanderpool, Jesse Leonard, Sean Roman, Trent Adams, and Mary Moore, City Engineer Mike Janecek, City Attorney William McCullough, Public Works Director Josh Ferkel, Fire Department Representative Adam Sowells, and City Clerk Tanna Leonard. Approval of Consent Agenda Motion by Trent Adams, seconded by Sean Roman, to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Harland inquired about: If the date for the sale was still Mar 2027, which the response was yes. The City's response regarding outdated appraisals and why the average appraisal value was not considered in the agreement. Whether he should seek private legal counsel or contact a state agency regarding the matter. City Attorney William McCullough recommended contacting the Iowa Consumer Advocacy Office, as that office would conduct the review.

Adam Sowells asked who pays for the annual free dump week at the Waste Commission. The City Clerk explained that the program is funded by the Waste Commission. Mr. Sowell stated that he was questioned because his name was not on the approved list, asked whether a Buffalo ID remains valid for participation, and indicated he was limited to two dump loads and was required to pay for a third load. The City Clerk stated she would investigate the matter and provide a response. Mayor's Remarks Mayor Rodriguez announced: Cemetery clean-up will be conducted from October 15 through October 22, after which decorations and items may be replaced. The community parade will be held on October 25 at 2:00 PM. Trick-or-Treat hours will be October 31 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Mayor Rodriguez also commended the Buffalo School District and recognized its support of the University of Iowa Children's Hospital.

Discussion and Decision Items

Street Projects Update

City Engineer Mike Janecek provided an update on ongoing street improvements. Highlights included: The Fourth Street overlay project is expected to begin soon. A punch list containing forty-seven items remains outstanding and must be corrected by the contractor. Pay requests appearing later on the agenda represent completed work only. Numerous items remain unpaid because they have not yet been completed. The City Clerk requested a copy of the punch list and was informed it would be made available on the City's website. Mayor Rodriguez also read a statement submitted by resident Olin Meador, who expressed concern regarding payments being made to the contractor despite limited project activity over the previous month. There will still be a final punch list prior to the final payment.

Pay Request No. 1 and No. 2

Motion by Trent Adams, seconded by Sean Roman to approve pay request 1 and 2, completing the project, based upon the recommendation of Engineer Mike Janecek, who noted contractor NJ Miller had performed excellent work. Motion carried unanimously.

Pay Request No. 6 Street Intersection and Resurfacing Project

Motion by Sean Roman, seconded by Trent Adams, to approve Pay Request No. 6 for CDMI associated with the Street Intersection and Resurfacing Project. Motion carried unanimously.

Giving Tree Festival Proposal

Sean Roman presented information regarding the proposed Giving Tree Festival in the absence of the Park Board President. The proposed fundraiser would: Allow participants to purchase and decorate trees. Provide tiered sponsorship levels for display at the park. Raise funds for the Park Board. Donate trees to families in need following the event, with recipients identified through Buffalo Elementary School. Estimated project cost: \$1,020.

Motion by Trent Adams, seconded by Sean Roman, to approve the \$1,020 expenditure, amend volunteer language to include a harmless-hold provision for the City, and require compliance with City accounting procedures. Motion carried. Voting: Aye: Adams, Roman, Leonard, Moore Nay: Teel-Vanderpool. Council Member Teel-Vanderpool stated she supported the concept but opposed action due to receiving the eighteen-page proposal on the day of the meeting and not having sufficient time for review. The City Clerk noted that the Park Board President may not have been aware that Council packets are distributed the Friday before a meeting and stated she would prepare a policy to ensure consistency among all boards and commissions.

Fire Engine Repair

Motion by Trent Adams, seconded by Sean Roman, to approve repairs to the Fire Department engine. Motion carried unanimously.

Scott County Weather Station

Mayor Rodriguez discussed how she is a member of the Emergency Management Commission and how Scott County's weather station grant program worked. The public access application that allows residents to view weather data from stations throughout the county. Motion by Sean Roman, seconded by Trent Adams, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Scott County Emergency Management and place the device at the Public Works Building. Motion carried unanimously.

Bucket Truck Repair

Motion by Trent Adams, seconded by Mary Moore, to approve repairs to the bucket truck in the amount of \$15,842, with acknowledgment that costs may increase as inspections and repairs continue. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Format and Consent Agenda Discussion

Council discussed a request from the Fire Chief to have the Fire Department report under the consent agenda and to have any Fire Department issues at the top of the agenda, so the Fire Chief could leave prior to the end of the meeting. Including committee reports within the Consent Agenda. Council Member Adams stated that attendance by the Fire Chief or another Fire Department representative remained important to maintain awareness of City operations and projects. Adam Sowell disagreed, noting that other meeting attendees are compensated for participation. Council Member Adams requested that Fire Chief meeting compensation be placed on a future agenda.

Water and Wastewater Training Public Works Director

Josh Ferkel requested approval for himself and employee Jerry to attend a conference for continuing education credits. Motion by Trent Adams, seconded by Sean Roman, to approve water and wastewater training. Motion carried unanimously.

Future Public Works Training Approval Process

Public Works Director Josh Ferkel requested authority to approve future training opportunities without prior mayoral approval, as there was a delay in receiving approval. Mayor Rodriguez stated that she wanted more information about who needed the CEUs and hotel stay info, as well as the end date for signing up for the training was Nov 3, 2026. Following discussion, the Council determined that future training requests should be submitted directly to the Council. Motion by Trent Adams, seconded by Rachel Teel-Vanderpool, to require future training requests to be brought directly before the Council for approval. Motion carried. Voting: Aye: Adams, Teel-Vanderpool, Moore, Rodriguez Nay: Roman, Leonard

Transfer Switch Repair

Motion by Trent Adams, seconded by Sean Roman, to approve transfer switch repairs in the amount of \$42,961, utilizing ATE funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Iron Filter Replacement - Well No. 1

Public Works Director Josh Ferkel reported that the iron filter at Well No. 1 had failed, reducing production capacity to approximately seventy percent. The replacement cost from Simmer Francis was quoted at \$4,051, and the item was included within the Water Utility Capital Improvement Plan, but the cost had increased. Motion by Sean Roman, seconded by Trent

Adams, to approve purchase of the iron filter from Simmer Francis for \$4,051. Motion carried unanimously.

Aeration Tank Replacement

Josh Ferkel reported that the current aeration tank at the water treatment plant is leaking and requires replacement. A bid had been received from Modern, with additional quotes pending. Motion by Trent Adams, seconded by Sean Roman, to table the item until additional bids are obtained. Motion carried unanimously.

Tabled Items

Jefferson Street Electrical Issues

Mayor Rodriguez asked if there was an update on the Jefferson Street electrical issues that needed discussion. Public Works Director Ferkel reported that no new pricing information had been received. No action taken.

Employee Handbook

Motion by Sean Roman, seconded by Trent Adams, to remove the Employee Handbook from the table. Motion carried. Mayor Rodriguez explained that final revisions had been reviewed by the City Attorney and were ready for final adoption. The handbook will be effective immediately and all employees of the city will be provided a copy. Motion by Sean Roman, seconded by Mary Moore, to approve the final Employee Handbook. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolutions

Firefighter Stipend

Motion by Trent Adams, seconded by Mary Moore, to approve Resolution 2026-27 establishing an annual firefighter stipend of \$600 for firefighters who complete required training. Motion carried unanimously.

Wage Adjustment

Motion by Sean Roman, seconded by Trent Adams, to approve Resolution 2026-29 granting employee Charles Kinkennon a \$0.50 per hour wage increase in accordance with the union contract upon attaining Grade I Water Distribution Certification. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports Committee reports were received and addressed. No questions or comments were raised.

Ordinances

Fire Chief Duties

Motion by Trent Adams, seconded by Sean Roman, to approve the third and final reading of Ordinance No. 594 regarding Fire Chief Duties. It was clarified that this final ordinance would not require the chief to attend meetings as requested by the chief. Motion carried.

Fire Department Stipend

Motion by Trent Adams, seconded by Sean Roman, to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 595 regarding Fire Department stipends. Motion carried.

Future Meetings Regular City Council Meeting: November 9, 2026, at 6:00 PM Stormwater Meeting: October 14, 2026, at 5:00 PM

Adjournment

Motion by Mary Moore, seconded by Trent Adams, to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:32 p.m.

Mayor Sally Rodriguez

City Clerk Tanna Leonard

Claims

Fund 1 – General Fund

ADVANCED Business Systems — copier contract — \$10.78

AFLAC — AFLAC Insurance premium — \$233.20

Alex Air Apparatus Inc — helmet — \$595.09

Bi-State Regional Commission — membership — \$283.75

City of Davenport — brush disposal — \$30.00

Elan Financial Services — postage, bug spray, soap, car, mirror, boots — \$8,440.50

Foremost Productions — squishies for fire prevention week — \$1,490.74

IA IL Termite & Pest Conl — pest control — \$91.67

John Deere Financial — uniform allowance — \$107.98

Kirby Water Conditioning — salt — \$86.50

Legacy Fire Apparatus — Engine 2 serviced / Engine 1 service / Tanker 1 serviced / bulbs & switch — \$5,294.55

Martin & Whitacre — engineering/MS4 — \$776.41

McCullough, William — attorney fees — \$3,060.00

Mid American — utilities (fire, police, historical, Washington, BAC, morton, street lights) — \$1,362.34

QUILL — tpaper, toilet cleaner / paper towels — \$107.21

R.P. Lumber — BAC flag pole repair — \$10.16

Republic Services #400 — recycle and garbage — \$10,194.32

Safe Building, LLC — September inspections — \$250.00

TC Auto — 2020 Interceptor oil change, tire rotation — \$117.62

Titan Machinery — backhoe hose repair — \$1,574.64

UnityPoint Health — DOT testing fee — \$91.00

Verizon — phone and internet — \$647.31

WEX Bank — fuel — \$4,826.49

Fund 1 Total: \$45,645.22

Fund 6 – Community Center Fund

A & A Air Cond & Refrig — ice machine rental — \$105.00

City of Buffalo — utilities — \$542.83

Culligan of the Quad Cities — conditioner rental — \$31.00

IA IL Termite & Pest Conl — pest control — \$190.00

Mid American — BCC — \$477.00

Verizon — phone and internet — \$54.09

Fund 6 Total: \$1,399.92

Fund 303 – 2024 Bond Proceeds Fund

Martin & Whitacre — Ash & Elm Streets engineering / Enfield, Franklin, Hacker engineering — \$2,779.69

Fund 303 Total: \$2,779.69

Fund 600 – Water Utility Fund

ADVANCED Business Systems — copier contract — \$10.77

Certasite — security system — \$660.00

Hawkins Inc — chlorine bottle rent — \$80.00

IDNR — Annual Water Use Fee — \$120.00

Mid American — shop/well & wtp utilities — \$105.77

R.P. Lumber — bad valve — \$21.98

Test Inc — water tests — \$303.00

Truck Country — bucket truck DOT inspection — \$100.00

Visa — hotel rental, training — \$260.00

Zimmer & Francescon Inc — chlorine parts — \$657.00

Fund 600 Total: \$2,318.52

Fund 610 – Sewer Utility Fund

ADVANCED Business Systems — copier contract — \$10.77

Certasite — security system — \$660.00

Gierke Robinson — bypass pump parts — \$2,686.09

Mid American — sewer utilities — \$4,466.30

R.P. Lumber — bypass pump bolts — \$2.04

Visa — hotel rental, training — \$520.00

Fund 610 Total: \$8,345.20

Fund 630 – Electric Utility Fund

ADVANCED Business Systems — copier contract — \$10.77

Fletcher-Reinhardt Company — connectors and supplies — \$1,884.41

Metering & Technology Solutions — meter couplings & accessories — \$1,878.80

Resale Power Group of Iowa — electricity — \$53,455.67

Road Machinery & Supplies Co — bucket truck repair — \$1,200.53

Visa — hotel rental, training — \$175.18

Fund 630 Total: \$58,605.36

Fund 740 – Storm Water Utility Fund

Martin & Whitacre — engineering/MS4 — \$81.91

Fund 740 Total: \$81.91

TOTAL BY FUNDS: \$119,175.82