

**MINUTES**  
**BUHL CITY COUNCIL WORKING SESSION**  
**BUHL CITY HALL**  
**4/4/2023**

Tuesday, April 4, 2023

4:30 P.M.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Mayor Carter at 4:30 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL:**

Councilors:      X   Hadrava      X   Kealy          X   Loeffler      X   Towner  
Mayor:           X   Carter

Administrator:                  X   Jeffries  
Finance Manager:                X   Thronson

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA/COUNCIL ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

**Motion by Hadrava to approve the agenda as presented.**

**Supported by Kealy.**

Discussion. Approve/Reject/Table.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

4. **BUSINESS:**

The Administrator stated he believes the use of City Council Working Sessions are a good way to discuss and conduct blue-sky thinking on various matters concerning the City, with more and greater flexibility than what is offered during regular City Council meetings, and encourages the use of these sessions now and into the future.

Of primary note was the sensitivity to respecting peoples' time, as conversations can become drawn-out and conducting these conversations during regular City Council meetings could make these meetings overly protracted and onerous.

The Administrator identified the following items for conversation and discussion with the City Council:

A. Gambling Activities – Ordinance?

An ordinance regulating the conduct of charitable gambling in the City may be warranted.

B. Water Storage/Distribution (Tower) Project – Future Direction.

A public hearing will likely be conducted when details regarding these project initiatives are fully developed and flushed out.

C. South Industrial Park – Reconfiguration & Revamping Considerations.

Shifting focus from industrial uses to business and commercial uses may be more beneficial in efforts to develop this area.

D. Licensing of Cannabis – Ordinance Creation.

The city will monitor what other municipalities are doing to get a pulse on this fledging industry.

E. In-town speed limit change – 20 mph Considered.

There are upsides and downsides to considering these types of signs, as well as mixed reviews.

F. Mesabi Trail – Repair/Renovate Trail Structures and Amenities.

Administrator has been working with the St. Louis County Regional Rail Authority and the Mesabi Trail to improve and/or refurbish these facilities in the city.

G. Citywide Traffic Signage – Restore or Replace.

Administrator has been working with the St. Louis County Traffic Department to obtain upgraded signage; conversation related to blinking lights also ensued.

H. Comprehensive Plan Discussion and Direction.

Administrator questioned what the final plan should look like, and suggested that the skill, talent, and experience may exist which may allow this initiative to be undertaken, or at least started, in house.

I. Street Project – Status and Future Plans.

Present and future positions were discussed.

J. Committee/Boards Status.

It was noted that all boards and commissions of the City are full at this time.

K. Budget.

It was noted that it is not too early to begin thinking about this, and that budget worksheets will be created by department.

L. Welcoming Basket for New Residents.

The importance of being a welcoming community was discussed.

M. Recreation Area on west side of town.

Several options and possibilities regarding building-out recreational facilities was discussed.

N. Expansion of Campground/Shower Facilities/IRRR Funding.

It was noted that the IRRR had indicated a desire to see this happen in 2024.

O. Potential Rezoning for Long-Term Planning and Development.

It was noted that the Zoning Ordinance may be a candidate for review and evaluation to examine its workability in this day and age.

P. Improvements to City Buildings (EMS; Fire Hall; Curling Club/Community Center).

An open discussion regarding several possibilities of facility improvements was conducted.

Q. Long-Term Plans for City Buildings – Consider Consolidation and Replacement.

This item was visited for conversation as an alternative for long-term planning.

R. Curling Club/Community Center Water Intrusion.

General discussion with consensus that this should be investigated and repaired.

S. Curling Club Refrigeration Plant Compliance Update.

Administrator indicated his research suggests there is no impact on the Buhl facility with regard to upcoming new ammonia management standards.

T. MDH Lead Water Service Line Inventory Requirement.

It was noted that this initial inventory must be completed by October 2024.

U. BEDA.

Administrator noted that visiting the long-term plans for BEDA may be valuable.

V. Residential Development Expansion Needs.

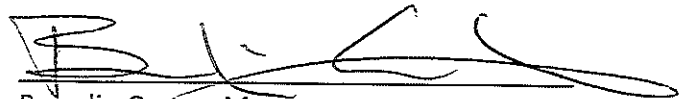
It was noted that a high demand for residential properties exists, and that the City may have land available to develop into additional residential area(s).

W. City Lands Inventory.

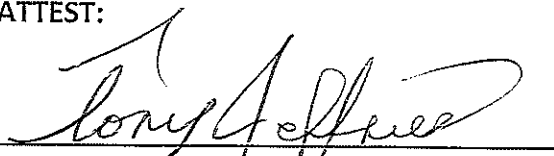
Administrator noted that such an inventory, with related mapping, may be valuable as a reference tool to assist with future planning initiatives, and will strive to have available by the end of the year (2023).

5. **ADJOURN:**

**Motion by Kealy to adjourn. Supported by Towner. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 6:19 p.m.**

  
Brandin Carter, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Tony Jeffries, City Clerk