

**MINUTES**  
**BUHL CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**BUHL CITY HALL**  
**9/3/2024**

Tuesday, September 3, 2024

6:30 P.M.

**1. CALL TO ORDER** by Mayor Pro-Tem Towner at 6:30 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

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

Administrator:              X   Jeffries  
Public Works Foreman:      X   Pink  
Attorney:                     Kearney  
Engineer:                     Jamnick  
Fire Chief:                    Lehman  
Police Chief:                X   Manner

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA/COUNCIL ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:**

None.

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

**Supported by Loeffler.**

Discussion. Approve/Reject/Table.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**5. REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

**Police Chief Manner:**

Discussed that the Chisholm Police Department, which serves and services the City of Buhl, is moved into their new facility and is almost complete with moving out of their old building –

Addressed the administration of the blight enforcement program – this program had been managed by CSOs (Community Service Officers) in the past, however the Department has discontinued the use of CSOs for this, and it fell back to being managed by regular staff officers, which led to a late and slow start to the program in 2024 –

This will be maintained throughout the year, and not reduced in the winter/snowy season(s) –

Discussed various ways of enforcing blight issues, and suggested there be more approaches considered to more positively impact these issues –

Will work on tweaking this program in the future throughout the winter of 2024 -

Coming onto January 2025, the Department is looking forward to having a full complement of 13 police offices at its disposal for the first time in several years –

Noted that observed blight issues in 2024 seem to be less than in the past -

Noted that the contract between the Chisholm Police Department and the City of Buhl is expiring at the end of 2024, and will be working with City staff to arrive at a mutually agreeable contract extension proposal -

#### **Public Works Foreman Pink:**

Still working on alley dust control measures; should be wrapped up in 2 weeks –

Noted that the ground-level potable water storage reservoir will receive cosmetic (not structural) concrete patching in the near future –

#### **Administrator Jeffries:**

Noted a number of items, including:

1. School is back in session; so drive safely, carefully, and be aware at all times!
2. The commissioned water tower structural inspection report for the superstructure and framing has just been received; it has not yet been reviewed and will be presented to the City Council at the next meeting -

3. The civil defense siren is slated to be announced (tested) at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 4, 2024, and invited all to listen and watch to see if the announcement is successful;
4. Thanked all the youth who served the City this summer in the Summer Street Labor and Beach Attendant programs; indicated that the City looks forward to working with them again next year if they are available; and wished them good luck between now and then!

**6. CITIZENS FORUM:**

None.

**7. CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Minutes:

- i. Regular City Council Meeting – August 20, 2024

B. Claims:

- |                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| i. Payroll #17          | \$ 19,443.10        |
| Payroll 8 (August 2024) | \$ 2,550.00         |
| ii. A/P                 | <u>\$ 53,336.39</u> |

**TOTAL \$ 75,329.49**

**Motion by Loeffler to approve the consent agenda as presented.**

**Supported by Kealy.**

Discussion. Approve/Reject/Table.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**8. BUSINESS:**

- A. Consider Establishing Formal City Policy on Electric Service Line Maintenance Responsibilities for Electric Utility Customers.

The City Public Works Department is tasked with administering the field activities which come under the purview of operating as the local electric utility in the city.

An item of regular concern is the maintenance of the electrical service feed which is run from the City's electrical grid to each customer's electric meter and provides all electric power sources to a given customer address.

The most common item encountered is maintaining the safety of the electric service feed originating from the City grid (power pole, transformer, etc.) to the weatherhead and the customer service entrance.

The biggest issue with this is when trees or other vegetation encroach upon the service feed service line, which needs to be periodically maintained to prevent vegetative growth from encroaching on and impacting this service line.

All equipment up to the weatherhead is utility-owned; all equipment downstream from the weatherhead, with the exception of the electric meter, is customer-owned.

Although the service line is technically utility-owned, it is common practice in the industry, and the desire of the City of Buhl Electric Department, that tree trimming and all other vegetative trimming or clearing to provide a clear and unobstructed path for the Service Line, is a customer responsibility.

**Recommendation is for the City to approve establishing a formal policy which identifies and these service line activities as a customer responsibility.**

**Motion by Kealy approving establishing a formal City Policy on electric service line maintenance responsibilities for electric utility customers receiving electrical services from the City of Buhl.**

**Supported by Hadrava.**

Discussion. Approve/Reject/Table.

Public Works Foreman Pink indicated that this policy is currently standard operating procedure in the City of Buhl and mirrors a current Minnesota Power policy, which the City of Buhl Electric Department finds workable –

Administrator inquired as to whether the City of Buhl Electric Department could service property owners' needs rather than require them to source services from an outside contractor –

This policy will be targeted to be established by January 1.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

B. Notice of Upcoming Sale of Tax-Forfeited Land – Tax Forfeited Settlement Sales by St. Louis County in Buhl.

The St. Louis County Land and Minerals Department has provided notice of an upcoming Sale of Tax-Forfeited Land – Tax Forfeited Settlement Sales in Buhl in the near future.

Specifically,

**Parcel No. 115-0030-00800 – Lots 17 & 18, Block 3, BUHL SECOND ADDITION,**

a single-family residential structure with associated detached residential garage, located at 313 Woodbridge Avenue, will be offered for sale at the St. Louis County Tax-Forfeited Settlement Sale via online auction beginning September 19, 2024, and closing October 3, 2024.

Anyone wishing to attempt to acquire this property must do so through the auction process.

A Tax-Forfeiture Laws Summary is attached to this communication for reference, and is also available for view at City Hall.

Additional information, as well as full listings of properties for sale, can be viewed at [stlouiscountymn.gov/landsales](https://stlouiscountymn.gov/landsales).

**Informational only.**

C. Notice of IRRR, St. Louis County, and Iron Range Partnership for Sustainability E-Waste Expo and Collection Event in Mt. Iron on October 5, 2024.

In an effort to continue to prevent harmful e-waste from ending up in landfills or being illegally dumped in and around our area, the Iron Range Partnership for Sustainability, along with several other partners, will be holding and sponsoring an E-Waste Expo & Collection Event.

This event will be held October 5, 2024, at the City of Mt. Iron Community Center, located at 8586 Enterprise Drive S., from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Other sponsoring partners affiliated with this initiative include the Minnesota Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation (IRRR), St. Louis County, Minnesota, and Recycling Electronics for Climate Action (RECA). Global Ewaste solutions, the only certified e-Steward company in Minnesota, will provide recycling and management services.

E-waste, short for electronic waste, is loosely defined as “...any unwanted electronic device, cathode ray tube (CRT), or component thereof...”, and is the fastest growing waste stream in the present day.

Landfilling of these materials has been known to contribute leaching of certain heavy metal from solid waste disposal facilities into groundwaters, which is not only highly discouraged, but in many cases illegal.

Although many items will be accepted for free, there are fees associated with the acceptance of other e-waste, ranging from \$5 to \$45, depending upon the item.

A listing of these items, and their associated fees (if any), are given on the attached event flyer, which will be posted on the City webpage for public consumption.

### **Informational only.**

#### **D. Update on Enforcement Activities Regarding Stopped Emergency Vehicles on Roadways from MnDOT and MDH.**

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), along with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, has noticed an increase in roadway related safety issues recently.

In partial response to mitigating these issues, beginning August 31, 2024, the Minnesota State Patrol will have extra enforcement on the roads, ticketing and education motorists on Minnesota’s Move Over Law.

Also, in conjunction with MnDOT’s “Minnesota – Toward Zero Deaths” program initiatives, these agencies have requested that all motorists be reminded to

### **Move over for stopped emergency vehicles on roadways!**

Therefore, in an effort to protect emergency and maintenance personnel on Minnesota roadways, motorists are reminded that it is state law to move over for emergency and maintenance vehicles with activated flashing lights.

When traveling on a road with two or more lanes, drivers must keep one full lane away from stopped emergency vehicles with flashing lights activated, whether that’s ambulance, fire, law enforcement, or maintenance and

construction vehicles. If drivers are unable to safely move over, reduce speed when passing emergency vehicles on the side of the road.

Please help Buhl do its part, by doing your part, and complying with the Minnesota Move Over Law.

**Informational only.**

E. Other Business.

None.

F. Councilor's Comments.

None.

G. Mayor's Comments.

None.

**ADJOURN:**

**Motion by Kealy to adjourn.**

**Supported by Loeffler.**

**Motion carried Unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.**



Brandin Carter, Mayor

**ATTEST:**



Tony Jeffries, City Clerk