

REGULAR MEETING

The Fairbank City Council met in a budget workshop at 5:30 PM and then regular session following at 6:00 PM on Monday January 27, 2025. Members present: R. Woods, Williams, Erickson, and T. Woods. Gruetzmacher attended via Microsoft Teams. Absent: None. Also, present at City Hall: Heather Prendergast, City Attorney; Lonnie Brewer, Public Works; Michelle Laube, Deputy Clerk; and Brittany Fuller, City Clerk.

During the budget workshop, the council reviewed proposed budget numbers for FY2026 and information regarding valuations and property taxes.

Mayor Kayser called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Williams, second by T. Woods to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

There were no public hearings.

Motion by Williams, second by R. Woods to approve the following consent agenda items as presented: January 13, 2025 Regular City Council Meeting, Setting the next budget workshop for 5:30 PM on February 10th, Approving the liquor license for the Fairbank Food Center, and Approving updates to the Personnel Manual section 2.7 Health Insurance Benefits. Roll call vote- Ayes: Williams, R. Woods, T. Woods, Erickson, and Gruetzmacher. Nays: None.

Chris West presented more financial information to the council regarding purchasing a new ambulance. He projected that they would need around \$328,800.00. He calculated spending roughly \$160,000.00 from their savings account with the city and that would still leave them with some cushion in their savings. He also estimated a trade in value of around \$50,000.00 and that the Fireman's Fund was looking to spend around \$60,000.00 towards the purchase. With all of that, it would leave just under \$60,000.00 that would still be needed for the purchase. He thought maybe an internal loan with the city or there are still two years that more money could be raised or if the essential service levy passed that could possibly provide some money from that. Chris stated that they are in a better financial situation this time compared to the last time an ambulance was purchased as they had to borrow just under \$140,000.00 at that time as an internal loan through the city. Motion by Williams, second by T. Woods to approve ordering the new ambulance especially knowing that over the next two years they would be fundraising heavily. Roll call vote- Ayes: Williams, T. Woods, Gruetzmacher, Erickson, and R. Woods. Nays: None.

R. Woods stated that he and T. Woods and Nick were able to sit down with six applicants and interview them for the open position in the public works department. He said that they were all very good candidates. T. Woods also stated the same. R. Woods said that they recommended to the council hiring Ken Schnor. Ken was present and stated that he was able to take some time out that past week to tour some city facilities with Nick and that he was still interested in the position. Motion by Gruetzmacher, second by T. Woods to approve **Resolution 2025-04 – Hiring Public Works Employee**. Ken Schnor was hired at \$26.00 per hour with additional raises when certifications are completed. He stated that he could start on February 10th. Roll call vote- Ayes: Gruetzmacher, T. Woods, Erickson, and R. Woods. Abstain: Williams. Nays: None.

The current rates set for Electric and Sewer services were discussed. The utility committee planned to meet with Matthew Mahoney from Butler County Rec to discuss with him about their rate increase and the city utility billing differences. The council agreed that the Sewer rates needed to be increased slightly due to the operating costs of the plant.

Motion by Williams, second by Erickson to table the first reading of Ordinance 368 – Chapter 111 Electric Utility and Electric Rates until more information could be researched. Motion carried.

Motion by Gruetzmacher, second by Erickson to approve the first reading of Ordinance 369 – Chapter 99 Sewer and Sewer Rates. Ordinance 368 reads a price increase from \$0.00322 to \$0.004 per gallon ran through the sewer plant. That rate would increase annually every July 1st by 1%. The \$15.00 monthly fee and \$40.00 infrastructure fee would remain the same. Roll call vote- Ayes: Gruetzmacher, Erickson, T. Woods, R. Woods, and Williams. Nays: None.

Gruetzmacher left the meeting at 6:35 PM.

Documents for the Fourth Street Project needed to be approved. Motion by T. Woods, second by Williams to approve the Title VI and IA DOT documents needed for the project. Roll call vote- Ayes: T. Woods, Williams, R. Woods, and Erickson. Nays: None.

Nick Kuker received a letter from Outer Road Development, LLC requesting natural gas services from Fairbank Utilities. They are planning to build four duplexes along Outer Road in Oelwein. They would each consist of two condo units. Motion by Williams, second by T. Woods to explore this opportunity. Motion carried.

Two quotes were received for a brush that attaches to the skid loader to help with snow removal and street cleaning. One quote was from BDS Equipment for \$4,999.00 for an 84” Jenkins Hydraulic Angle Broom and one quote from Echo Eqpt for \$5,500.00 for an 84” Power Angle Skid Steer Sweeper Broom. The one from BDS Equipment is able to connect right into the factory wiring while the other one would need to have a new electrical wire ran. Motion by Williams, second by R. Woods to approve the brush purchase from BDS Equipment since it is cheaper and would work better for the city’s skid loader. Roll call vote- Ayes: Williams, R. Woods, T. Woods, and Erickson. Nays: None.

During the council/mayor comments or concerns, Mayor Kayser stated that he wanted to start reviewing the UTV ordinance at the next meeting and he also stated that a new backdoor was ordered for City Hall.

During the department reports, Lonnie stated that during this last cold snap the sewer plant behaved as expected and that it tends to behave a little differently during those times. They are handling it so far and the tests are still coming back well. He is working on a gas meter corrosion and inspection report. He has almost completed the west side of town and is looking for ventilation abuse or paint corrosion. So far, he had found that there was a dog leash attached to a gas meter which is very dangerous, so it was a good thing to be doing an inspection like this. Lonnie also stated that he qualified as a CPO Pool Operator and Nick did further education for the pool as well. Lastly, he mentioned that the Ragbrai route was released, and they will be traveling from Cedar Falls to Oelwein one of the days and it is more than likely going to be routed through Fairbank. Once that is confirmed, discussing sooner than later about traffic and what the city will need for that would be best.

Motion by Williams, second by T. Woods to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 PM. Motion carried.

Jason Kayser, Mayor

Brittany Fuller, City Clerk

Employee Wages – Calendar Year 2024

Olivia Becker	\$290.12	Maren Jones	\$2,603.48
Chancellor Beierschmitt	\$215.60	Kennedy Kane	\$2,227.61
Angela Berg	\$20,200.21	Jason Kayser	\$3,300.00
Brock Berg	\$257.13	Chloe Kleinheksel	\$3,156.30
Mikayla Bixeman	\$2,717.78	Cody Kleitsch	\$201.40
Aidan Brady	\$2,741.28	Nicholas Kuker	\$74,501.35
Lonnie Brewer	\$22,472.00	Michelle Laube	\$42,721.08
Carter Chemin	\$885.80	Joshua Leistikow	\$2,314.29
Matthew Coffin	\$500.00	Linda Letson	\$168.53
Jordan Cowell	\$0.01	Abby Mann	\$2,358.18
William Cowell	\$300.00	Ella Morarend	\$2,112.77
Mason Curley	\$548.27	Aidan Oldfather	\$3,064.62
Brian Delagardelle	\$83,219.12	Norah Oldfather	\$2,349.71
Benjamin Delagardelle	\$19,365.58	Olivia Oldfather	\$4,897.60
Tristan Dilley	\$6,302.54	Lydia Rehmert	\$255.60
Dakota Drish	\$14,213.75	Hunter Robinson	\$9,168.71
Hailey Eitzenhfer	\$6,227.25	Carver Schares	\$1,566.24

Tamara Erickson	\$1,150.00	Weston Schares	\$2,200.32
Mitchell Franck	\$11,547.50	Jacob Schoer	\$809.05
Susan Frost	\$4,267.30	Bridget Seemann	\$2,169.95
Brittany Fuller	\$60,791.48	Morgan Steggall	\$1,157.53
Jayden Griese	\$1,899.59	Therese Steggall	\$346.06
Michael Gruetzmacher	\$200.00	Alyssa Stuber	\$939.34
Mark Gudenkauf	\$37,511.52	Haley Stuber	\$2,599.85
Gavin Henry	\$1,957.78	Lydia Stuber	\$2,544.84
Erin Hill	\$2,140.00	Andrew Williams	\$1,200.00
Manhattan Huebner	\$1,744.68	Collin Woods	\$266.80
Thomas Hyde	\$150.00	Ronald Woods	\$1,000.00
Andrew Isley	\$626.77	Tyler Woods	\$1,150.00