

City of Bigfork
City Council Meeting
April 11, 2017
6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Amy Pifher, Andrew Francisco, Eric Storlie, Peter Johnson

Members Absent: Benjamin Maxa

Also Present: Warren Welch, Terry Snyder, Becki Passeri, Jesse Storlie, Marlyn Halvorson, Mark & JoAnn Krickhahn

Mayor Pifher called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Pifher opened the public forum. As no one wished to address the Council, the public forum was closed.

Motion by Francisco to approve the agenda with the addition of Commissioner Snyder, seconded by Johnson, motion carried unanimously (MCU).

Consent Agenda: Motion by Francisco seconded by Johnson and carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda, with the exception of the claims, including:

- 1. minutes of the March 7, 2017 regular City Council meeting,***
- 2. City Clerk's office report for March 2017,***
- 3. Financial reports for March 2017,***
- 4. Public Works Department report for March 2017,***
- 5. payroll and timecards for March 10 & 24 payday in the amount of \$6,430.44***

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Commissioner Snyder: County Commissioner Terry Snyder shared a number of updates with the Council. The first was in relation to funding for the well project. Snyder has been working with Senator Tomassoni and Representative Sandstede on funding through the IRRRB. It is recommended that the City request a meeting with IRRRB Commissioner Mark Phillips. It is also recommended that letters of support be collected from the hospital, school and other local businesses.

Snyder's next update was on the tax forfeit property that the City acquired from the County with the understanding that Habitat for Humanity would be purchasing it from the City. Habitat has now determined that they cannot use the property due to the high cost of cleanup. Snyder stated that the County will attempt to assist the City is getting the property sold to another party. If that does not happen, it may be possible to return the property to the County.

Snyder informed the Council that crews would be up in the near future to do some re-grading and an overlay on the RiverWalk trail. There is funding held over from the original project to cover these repairs.

The County Road 229 bridge is a high priority for the County and will be repaired as soon as a bonding bill is passed and funding is available.

The County has negotiated a settlement with Blandin on their property tax case and has asked the legislature to help with the retro pay and potential future losses to taxpayers.

Itasca County is considering opening up all County roads to ATV traffic.

The Highway 38 reconstruction has been delayed until 2018 so that the State can purchase the necessary easements.

The County successfully negotiated with Verizon Wireless to put their cell tower on the existing Suomi tower rather than constructing a new tower at the Marcell town park.

NEW BUSINESS

Minnesota Integrated Emergency Management Course and Code Red: Itasca County Emergency Management Coordinator Marlyn Halvorson reported that Mayor Pifher had attended a meeting of all 16 jurisdictions regarding the Integrated Emergency Management Course. A series of trainings will be offered free of charge to elected officials this June. CodeRed is the emergency notification system being utilized by the County. All residents are encouraged to sign up using the link on the Sheriff's Department webpage. Halvorson briefly reviewed the County-wide Emergency Operations Plan. A link has been provided to Mayor Pifher for the City's review and adoption. The plan meets all guidelines set by the State and is reviewed every four years.

Sewer Televising Proposal: A proposal was received from J & R Wastewater for sanitary sewer cleaning. The company that the City previously contracted with has stopped providing this type of service. The Council requested references from J & R Wastewater for the next meeting.

Earth Day Clean-Up and Elementary Community Service Day: The Clerk informed the Council that 4th and 5th graders from Bigfork Elementary would be picking up litter around the City on April 21 in honor of Earth Day. In addition, the entire Elementary school will be doing community service projects on May 31. All Council members were invited to help out on those two days.

Community Clean-Up Days: The Clerk noted that the annual community clean-up days are scheduled for Friday and Saturday, May 19 and 20. Dumpsters will be located near the Fire Hall as in prior years.

Claims: Pifher questioned the claims for \$135 to MN AWWA for Public Works Worker Aaron Gould's water licensing class and \$206.19 to Superior Shores for lodging for the same. Pifher felt that the City should not be paying these costs because Gould had not passed his first attempt at obtaining his Class C water license. After discussion, it was the general consensus of the Council to amend the personnel policy to reflect that the City will

pay for two attempts at obtaining any required licenses and any further attempts necessary would be at the employee's own expense.

Motion by Johnson to approve the claims paid in the amount of \$43,608.26 and claims for payment in the amount of \$89,899.95, seconded by E. Storlie, MCU.

Training Request: The Clerk requested permission to attend an Athenian Dialogue in Bloomington, MN on April 28, and the IIMC Annual Conference in Montreal, May 20-25. A \$600 grant was received toward the cost of the IIMC Conference. ***Motion by Francisco to approve City Clerk Angie Storlie's attendance at these two trainings, seconded by E. Storlie, MCU.***

Pifher issued a reminder there is no ATV use on the RiverWalk trail.

Motion to adjourn at 7:04 p.m. by Johnson, seconded by Francisco, MCU.

Angela L. Storlie
City Clerk/Treasurer