

## City of Bigfork

### Work Session & Regular City Council Meeting April 12, 2016 7:00 p.m.

**Members Present:** Amy Pifher, Peter Johnson, Eric Storlie

**Members Absent:** Andrew Francisco, Randy Nei

**Also Present:** Joe Zimmer, Ryan Rieckman, Terry Snyder, Tim Johnson, Ryan Sutherland, Becki Passeri, Diane Gallagher, Warren & Caroline Welch, Gene Rajala, Chris Cheney, Mike & Dianne Bakke

Mayor Pifher called the work session to order at 7:02 p.m. The Fire Department Report was removed from the agenda. The Clerk informed the Council that the Fire Department will be in the market for a replacement fire truck soon. The Clerk pointed out two invoices on the claims list that will be billed out to Minnesota Power for their 3-phase wire boring that caused a sewer main break near the hospital. Council discussed two new items included in the financial reports on the consent agenda. The items are a utility adjustments report and a utility payments reconciliation report.

Pifher closed the work session and opened the regular meeting at 7:12 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Mayor Pifher opened the public forum. Gene Rajala spoke to the Council about the planned public forum on law enforcement. It was his opinion that high resolution cameras be installed rather than re-opening the police department. He also commented that the RiverWalk Trail didn't run that close to the river and there should have been more public input on the routing of the project.

Itasca County Commissioner Terry Snyder gave several updates to the Council. He reported that we had attempted to include a request for funding for the well on the State bonding bill, however it was too late to get it included. There is still a possibility of obtaining State funds through the Governor's new initiative/bill for rural clean water, if it is passed. Snyder reported that the Blandin tax case was heard last week and should be decided upon within the next 60 days. Diane Gallaher noted that it would be nice to have name plates so audience members know who is on the Council.

Earth Day cleanup with 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders is April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 12:30 p.m. for anyone that wants to help.

As no one else from the public wished to address the Council, the public forum was closed.

***Motion by Johnson to approve the agenda as amended during the work session, seconded by E. Storlie, motion carried unanimously (MCU).***

**Consent Agenda: *Motion by Johnson seconded by E. Storlie and carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda including:***

- 1. minutes of the March 8<sup>th</sup> regular City Council meeting,***

2. *City Clerk's office report for March 2016,*
3. *Financial reports for March 2016,*
4. *Public Works Department report for March 2016,*
5. *payroll and timecards for March 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> paydays in the amount of \$5,950.71*
6. *claims paid in the amount of \$5,892.60 and claims for payment in the amount of \$67,609.34*
7. *creation of fund #407 in CTAS for City Hall Restoration Project*

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**RiverWalk Trail Update:** Itasca County Assistant Engineer Ryan Sutherland reported on the project progress. He reviewed that bids were advertised for and opened in January, awarded in February, and the contractor started right away. The first task of removing poor soils from the eastern loop of the trail area was completed while the ground was still frozen. All the clearing has also been completed and now the project is on hold until road restrictions are lifted. At that time grubbing and moving material around will begin. Gravel is to be on the eastern loop by mid-June. The Co Rd 77 work will begin as soon as school is out, with traffic detoured north on Co Rd 78. Mid-June will see work on Co Rd 78 completed. The entire project is scheduled to be completed by August 14<sup>th</sup>.

In response to Rajala's comments during the public forum, Tim Johnson gave a brief history of how the project got started and noted that there had been several opportunities for public input along the way. Due to various restrictions and setback requirements, the trail was not able to be routed directly along the river. Another difficulty was land ownership as several of the 14 different funding sources for the project required that it be located on public property as much as possible. Gallagher stated that the community is very excited about the trail and it has been incorporated into the hospital's wellness program. Sutherland gave thanks to the Council, Commissioner Snyder and Tim Johnson for all of the work that was done on the project before he became involved.

**Agreement with B.I.G. on City Hall Restoration:** *Motion by E. Storlie to approve a letter of understanding with Bigfork Improvement Group for them to continue to contract for architectural services with Scalzo Architecture for the City Hall Restoration project, seconded by Johnson, MCU.*

**Well #6 Funding Update:** Ryan Rieckman of WSN was present to discuss funding options for well #6. The City has an IRRRB application submitted which will be decided upon in May. The Governor's new initiative that Snyder referenced is one possibility for the match money needed if an IRRRB grant is awarded. Other options include a Minnesota Rural Water loan. For any option, the project needs to be on the Project Priority List which WSN is working on.

**Hwy 38 Snow Removal:** Chris Cheney of MnDOT was present to review the snow removal process and performance for State Hwy 38/Main Street. Cheney felt that the first part of winter had gone very smoothly but that increased snow/rain events and equipment breakdowns had caused some delays in February. He stated that they are also short staffed at this time but the best way to ensure that our windrow is moved in a timely manner is to email him when we have a significant amount of snowfall. Pifer expressed safety concerns with decreased visibility when

the windrow remains in the middle of the street, as well as the amount of time spent by City employees keeping the piles cleaned up. Cheney reiterated that he can always be reached via email with concerns as they arise.

Cheney noted that Bigfork's street sweeping will be done as soon as the sweepers are done in the southern part of the district. He also noted that Bridge Supervisor Daniel Perkins is aware of some graffiti on the Hwy 38 bridge and has a crew scheduled to come take care of that.

**Rescheduling of Law Enforcement Public Forum:** A public forum on law enforcement within the City was scheduled for the May 10<sup>th</sup> regular meeting, however that meeting will now be taking place on Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at Bigfork School. It was the general consensus of the Council that the law enforcement public forum be held at the June 14<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

**Review of Water/Sewer Line Ownership/Responsibility:** As requested at the last meeting, the Clerk gathered information from other cities and the League of Minnesota Cities on city vs. customer water/sewer line ownership/responsibility. It was the general consensus of the Council that the ordinance should stay as it currently reads, which is that the customer is responsible for the water line from the curb stop to their home, and for the sewer line from the saddle to their home.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Purchase Request – truck mounted salter/sander:** Joe Zimmer presented information on a truck mounted salter/sander that the Public Works Department would like to purchase for use on streets, sidewalks and the RiverWalk Trail once it is completed. The Council was in favor of such a purchase.

## **OTHER**

**Training Request:** *Motion by Johnson, seconded by E. Storlie to authorize Aaron Gould to attend the May 11-13 water class & exam in Two Harbors, MCU.*

The annual community clean-up days will be Friday and Saturday May 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.

**REMINDER** that the May Council meeting has been moved to MONDAY, May 9<sup>th</sup> and will be held at 9:30 a.m. at the Edge Center as a collaborative educational project between the City and Bigfork School.

Council commented that it was nice to have so many in attendance at the meeting.

***Motion to adjourn by Johnson at 8:12 p.m., seconded by E. Storlie, MCU.***

Angela L. Storlie  
City Clerk/Treasurer