

# City of Bigfork

## Work Session & Regular City Council Meeting

August 13, 2014

5:30 p.m.

Emergency Council Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

**Members Present:** Mayor Amy Pifher, Peter Johnson, Krista Lane, Dave Evensen

**Members Absent:** Randy Nei

**Also Present:** Becki Passeri and Joe Zimmer

Mayor Amy Pifher called the work session to order at 5:30 p.m. The Council discussed pulling the garbage can off the sidewalk in front of Cenex due to overflowing household garbage. Evensen asked about adding \$400 to the 2015 budget for Main Street flags. Storlie gave an update on a meeting regarding the RiverWalk Trail project earlier in the day. There is an immediate need for \$17,300 to begin engineering of the project. Johnson asked to have the letter sent to the hospital board added to the agenda.

Pifher called the regular meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**Also Present for Regular Meeting:** none

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

Changes to the agenda included the addition of Water Account #765 to Old Business, and the hospital board letter to New Business. *Motion by Johnson to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Evensen, motion carried unanimously (MCU).*

**Consent Agenda:** *Motion by Lane, seconded by Johnson and carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda including:*

- 1. minutes of the July 8<sup>th</sup> regular City Council meeting,*
- 2. City Clerk's office report for July 2014,*
- 3. Financial reports for July 2014,*
- 4. Public Works Department report for July 2014,*
- 5. payroll and timecards for July 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> paydays in the amount of \$6,000.84,*
- 6. claims paid in the amount of \$5,461.50 and claims for payment in the amount of \$29,452.66*

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**Acct #765:** This water account has been in breach of payment contract for many months and service has now been disconnected. The City will continue to follow its ordinance regarding re-connection of service and payment status thereafter.

**Well #5:** As Mark Hallan of Widseth, Smith & Nolting was not yet present, this item was moved to the end of the agenda.

**Blight Violations:** Several blight violation notices were served and the deadline for abatement has come and gone. If the Council wishes to pursue enforcement of the ordinance, the City Attorney will need to become involved. As the majority of the violations are located within the trailer court which has recently come under new ownership, the Council felt it was appropriate to notify the new owner of the violations and give them time to take care of them.

**IRRRB Residential Rehab Grant Program/York Property:** While the IRRRB likes to see three structures per application for this grant program, we have only been able to locate two candidates. The York property is not one of them as the owner has not been responsive. *Motion by Lane to start the process of condemnation of the York property, seconded by Johnson, MCU.*  
*Motion by Lane, seconded by Evensen to submit an application to the IRRRB Residential Rehab Grant Program with the two identified properties, MCU*

**Open Bids for Raft:** Three bids were received and opened by the Council at this time.  
*Motion by Johnson, seconded by Evensen to accept the bid from Jason & Renee Tower in the amount of \$401 for the beach raft, MCU. Motion by Lane to donate these funds to the RiverWalk Trail project to be paid immediately, seconded by Johnson, MCU.*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Planning & Zoning Commission Recommendations:** The Planning & Zoning Commission is recommending a survey of the lines of Elm and Spruce Streets before proceeding with the proposed vacation. This will ensure that no portion of the actual road is vacated.

*Motion by Evensen to have this survey, as well as a survey of the dump site property, done by Northern Lights Surveying, seconded by Lane, MCU.*

The Planning and Zoning Commission also reported that they approved the placement of two pianos under the pavilion in McGarry Park. The pianos will be decorated by area youngsters and be available for them to play.

**Sale of Dock:** An individual has expressed interest in purchasing an unused portion of wooden dock.  
*Motion by Evensen, seconded by Johnson to call for sealed bids with a minimum of \$50, MCU.*

**Bobcat Track:** Zimmer reported that a replacement track is needed for the Bobcat. *Motion by Evensen to purchase the necessary part at a cost of \$1,235, seconded by Johnson, MCU*

**Donation Request:** A request was received from Bigfork Valley Community Foundation to sponsor their annual fundraiser. The Bigfork Improvement Group's City Hall Restoration Project is a benefactor of this fundraiser. *Motion to donate \$100 by Johnson, seconded by Lane, MCU.*

**Hospital Board Letter:** Pifher reported that she sent a letter to Hospital Board Member Carol Mills requesting clarification regarding a statement she made about a City street being repaired at the hospital's expense. No response was received so a second letter was sent by Pifher, Johnson and Evensen. Johnson informed the Council that Mrs. Mills had come into his restaurant, found out he was one of the signers of the letter, and stated she had found the letter to be rude. Johnson disagreed and said the letter was very professional and courteous. Mills mentioned to Johnson that she would get the facts about how her statement came to be. Johnson stated that facts should be gathered before public statements are made, especially if those statements would potentially case another entity in a negative

light. He also offered a reminder that discussions such as this should take place through the proper channels. Pifher added that there is a public forum at the beginning and end of each meeting.

**OTHER:**

Gene & Nin Madsen were thanked for all of the work they have been doing around the City including maintenance on the lumberjack statue, improvements to the river driver statue, and flower planting and care.

Zimmer reported that the construction taking place on Main Street should be completed by the end of next week and KGM contractors are appreciative of the cooperation of residents and businesses during the project.

As a representative of WSN was still not present, ***a motion was made by Evensen, seconded by Johnson to table well #5, MCU.***

***Motion to adjourn at 6:40 p.m. by Johnson seconded by Evensen, MCU.***

A scheduled budget meeting commenced at this time but when Mark Hallan of WSN arrived at 7:00 p.m., an emergency meeting was called to order by Pifher for the purpose of discussing well #5.

Hallan gave a brief summary of the project to date, explaining that the well drillers had been unsuccessful in their attempts to pull the well casing back up to a shallower depth in hopes of finding a sufficient amount of water there. He explained that the City still has an open contract with Eagle Construction, and Keys Well Drilling as subcontractors, and those should be closed out at this time with the abandonment of well #3 and well #5.

Hallan answered questions from the Council on the cable method versus drilling. He explained that the cable method is slower and gives the opportunity to watch the geology as you go so that you don't blow past a potential good water pocket, however with drilling, a 2" pilot hole is often drilled first in order to map the geology and choose your depth.

Johnson stated that he felt the city needed to close out the current project and then take a step back and reevaluate the most efficient and economical way to go forward. Hallan felt that was a good decision and stated the City could continue to operate on one well in the meantime. Lane asked if the City is required to have a backup well and Hallan noted that the Minnesota Department of Health strongly urges it and with the school and hospital in this community, we could afford to not have a backup.

***Motion by Evensen, seconded by Johnson to direct Eagle to complete the abandonments and to provide final payment applications and close out documents for the current contract, MCU.*** Hallan estimated fees of between \$2,000 and \$3,000 for WSN to provide the close out work on this contract. Then they will begin looking at options and funding for the City to start over.

Mayor Pifher appointed WSN as the City's official engineer.

***Motion to adjourn at 7:39 p.m. by Evensen, seconded by Johnson, MCU***

Angela L. Storlie  
City Clerk/Treasurer