

City of Bigfork
City Council Meeting
August 8, 2017
5:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Amy Pifher, Benjamin Maxa, Eric Storlie and Peter Johnson

Members Absent: Andrew Francisco

Also Present: Aaron Gould, Ryan Davies, Joe Zimmer

Mayor Pifher called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and announced that a closed session would be held for preliminary investigation of alleged employee misconduct. Aaron Gould, as the subject of the meeting, requested that the session be kept open. Pifher stated that complaints had been received as to the operation of the skid steer and the condition Ottum Avenue was left in after brushing work was completed. She inquired as to training of the employees in operation of that equipment. Gould responded that he has read the operator's manual and had on-the-job training over the last five years. He added that he had performed hand-cutting of the largest brush prior to cutting with the Bobcat. Main points of the ensuing discussion were as follows:

- Council members, staff and the union representative confirmed that the way in which Gould operated the brush cutting attachment (off the ground to cut larger brush down from the top) was a proper use of equipment,
- Itasca County maintains their right-of-ways in the same manner,
- This work needs to be done annually for visibility improvement and to keep brush from getting weighed down by snow in the winter and overhanging the road,
- Employees should try to do a more thorough job of cleaning up after brush work, though there is an understanding that it will look somewhat unkempt until re-growth occurs,
- Employees should utilize "Men at Work" signs, cones and/or road blocks to notify passersby of the work being done

It was determined that no employee misconduct had occurred.

Pifher closed the meeting at 5:20 p.m. for the purpose of discussing strategy for union negotiations. The meeting was re-opened at 5:32 p.m.

Ryan Davies, business agent for IUOE Local 49 was present and passed out a proposal for the union contract. Requests included:

- extending the 4-10 workweek schedule by one more month on either end (April 1 to November 1)
- addition of Veteran's Day to the paid holidays
- increase of \$212 per month in the City's contribution to employee health insurance
- 0.5% pay increase in 2018, 1% in 2019, and 1% in 2020

Pifher closed the meeting again at 5:51 p.m. for additional strategy discussion. Pifher called the regular meeting to order at 5:57 p.m.

Also present for regular meeting: Warren Welch and Becki Passeri

Pifher noted that the City Council would like to take some more time to consider the union proposal. It will be revisited in September.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Pifher opened the public forum. Warren David noted that the streetlight is still not working. This was added to the agenda. As no one else wished to address the Council, the public forum was closed.

Ash Street streetlight repair, water/sewer service at 301 Rajala Mill Rd, recreation activities and a vacation request were added to the agenda.

Motion by Johnson to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Maxa, 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 July 11, 2017 regular City Council meeting,***
- 2. City Clerk's office report for July 2017,***
- 3. financial reports for July 2017,***
- 4. Public Works Department report for July 2017,***
- 5. payroll and timecards for July 14 and 28 in the amount of \$6,6141.14***
- 6. claims paid in the amount of \$5,640.80 and claims for payment in the amount of \$30,670.97***

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Well #6 and Water Treatment Plant Project Call for Bids: Widseth, Smith, Nolting has completed the project specifications and bid documents. ***Motion by E. Storlie, seconded by Maxa to direct WSN to call for bids, bid opening date and place to be determined by them, with the bid award to take place at the regular September 12, 2017 Council meeting, MCU.***

Temporary Public Works Position: Public Works Commissioner Francisco had met with Joe Zimmer to discuss the procedure for his temporary replacement during his medical leave. The following recommendations were made:

- duties for temporary position to be mowing, plowing, general maintenance, janitorial and water/sewer operation tasks as needed and under Aaron's direction
- up to 30 hours per week starting two weeks prior to Joe's leave
- \$14.00 per hour
- increase Aaron's pay to \$25.73 per hour during leave for additional responsibilities
- Advertise for two weeks in the Deerpath Shopper and online

- Joe to handle interviews and give recommendation of hire to Council at the regular September meeting

Motion by E. Storlie, seconded by Johnson to accept these recommendations, MCU.

Water/Sewer Service at 301 Rajala Mill Road: Pifher noted that the service at this address was disconnected three years ago for non-payment. It was determined that the Council would send a letter inquiring if the resident desired to set up a payment plan to get caught up and turned back on. Payment must be made in full before reconnection occurs.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2017-03: Resolution 2017-03 adopts the Itasca County/City of Bigfork Emergency Operations Plan as presented by Itasca County Emergency Management Coordinator Marlyn Halvorson at the April Council meeting. ***Motion by Pifher, seconded by Johnson to adopt Resolution 2017-03, MCU.***

Beach Access: The Clerk noted there had been several complaints regarding the beach gate only being open during daytime/working hours. A wide variety of opinions and possible solutions were discussed. ***Motion to open the gate for the rest of the summer and post "No Admittance After Dark" signs by E. Storlie, seconded by Johnson, MCU.***

Ash Street Streetlight: MN Power will be contacted again regarding this light.

Vacation Request: ***Motion by Johnson, seconded by Maxa to approve a vacation request from Aaron Gould for the week of August 28, MCU.***

Recreation Activities: Johnson stated that he would like to see the City sponsor some events and activities to help promote the new disc golf course and skating rink, and to encourage residents to remain active outdoors. Potential suggestions included a broomball, disc golf and ice-fishing tournament, and a snowshoe event on RiverWalk Trail. The Council agreed to bring more ideas and input to the September meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Johnson at 6:36 p.m., seconded by Pifher, MCU.

Angela L. Storlie
City Clerk/Treasurer