

**City of Bigfork**  
**Regular City Council Meeting**  
**August 8, 2019**  
**5:30 p.m.**

**Members Present:** Mayor Bryan Boone, Drew Francisco, David Mann, Paul Gustafson and Ben Maxa

**Members Absent:** Junior Councilmembers Hannah Johnson and James Rauzi

**Also Present:** Curt Meyer, Mike Novitzki, Joe Zimmer, Bruce Gerth, Justin Kastner and Dean & Sally Sedgewick

Mayor Boone called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the public forum was opened. Bruce Gerth stated that the traffic on Scenic Hwy 7 past Scenic Estates Drive is moving too fast and he is concerned there will be an accident. He urged the Council to put pressure on Itasca County to help with this issue. As no one else wished to address the Council, the public forum was closed.

Mr. Gerth's concerns and a request for purchase of a public works truck were added to the agenda.

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

- 1. minutes of the July 11 regular City Council meeting,***
- 2. City Clerk's office report for July 2019,***
- 3. financial report for July 2019,***
- 4. Public Works Department report for July 2019,***
- 5. payroll and timecards for July 12 and 26 regular payrolls in the amount of \$7,972.64***
- 6. claims paid in the amount of \$5,856.51 and claims for payment in the amount of \$40,373.12***

Boone noted that the VFW has informed the City they will contribute \$5,000 to the softball field project and the field will be appropriately named to honor this contribution and our veterans.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Engineering Updates:** Curt Meyer with Widseth-Smith-Nolting was present with updates. He stated that Itasca County is reviewing the final plans for the Ash Street/Rajala Mill Road project. Plans will then be forwarded to the State for their approval. WSN recommends bidding the project in December or later in order to get the most competitive bid. Itasca County will handle the bidding.

Meyer noted that he could have plans for the Rajala Mill lift station repairs by the next meeting if the Council would like to move forward with that. He reviewed that the City will bond for funds

for both the lift station and the local share of the road project. ***Motion by Mann, seconded by Gustafson to have WSN prepare the necessary documents for the lift station repair, MCU.*** Mike Novitski with KLM Engineering addressed the Council with the results of their inspection of the water tower. He explained that KLM works closely with WSN on their water tower projects. The inspection shows the need for structural repairs and replacement of the interior and exterior coatings (including the containment and removal of lead-based paint). The estimated cost for this work is between \$350,000 and \$375,000, not including engineering fees. The work will take about 6 weeks to complete, during which time a temporary water supply system will be set up. The inspection report also recommended the installation of a submersible mixer which would reduce the likelihood of ice formation and prevent stratification, improving water quality. The cost for the mixer about \$12,500.

Meyer informed the Council that Mark Hallan from WSN would be working with KLM to review the inspection report. Possible funding options will be discussed at a future meeting. Novitzki wrapped up by informing the Council that the water tower is relatively young and very structurally sound. The water quality is good and there was very little sediment on the bottom of the tank. He praised Public Works Superintendent Joe Zimmer for a job well done in operating the system.

**Draft Self-Directed Professional Development Policy:** During annual employee performance reviews conducted in July, Boone presented the idea of employees being given an hour per week for self-directed professional development. The Clerk provided a draft policy along with comments from the League of Minnesota Cities after their review of the draft. The Council discussed the policy and felt the staff was already doing enough professional development with their various trainings and licensures. No action was taken on the draft policy.

**Nuisance Ordinance Violations:** As directed at the July Council meeting, another letter was sent to the owners of Eagle's Nest mobile home park. Justin Kastner, owner, was present to discuss this with the Council. Kastner noted that he spoke with all tenants after receiving the letters and told them specifically what needed to be cleaned up. He stated he was in favor of the City assessing a fine because he will pass it along to the tenants in the hopes that will spur them into action. The Council directed Zimmer to provide an itemized list to each lot owner in violation of what needed to be corrected and notify them that fees would be assessed if violations are not corrected by September 1, 2019.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Joint Clean-Up Day with Bigfork Township (Spring 2020):** Bigfork Township is interested in coordinating with the City to offer the annual clean-up day services to township residents as well as city residents. Since the dumpsters have been filled to capacity each year, the Council felt that two different Friday/Saturday dates should be offered in order to accommodate both city and township residents. The Clerk was directed to respond to the township with his information and to offer a 50/50 cost share.

**Preliminary 2020 Budget Review:** Boone reported that the Budget Committee had met earlier that day to begin the process of setting the 2020 budget and levy. The preliminary budget and

levy will be presented at the September meeting for approval. Boone noted the Budget Committee should consider the water tower needs presented earlier in the meeting.

**Cleaning Position:** Lois Hanson resigned from the cleaning position effective July 12, 2019. After posting the position for two weeks, Zimmer is recommending the hire of Josh Manske to the position. ***Motion by Mann, seconded by Gustafson to approve the hire of Josh Manske as cleaner, MCU.***

**Hwy 7/Scenic Estates Speed Concerns:** The Council discussed Mr. Gerth's concerns about traffic speed on Scenic Hwy 7 within city limits. This area has significant bike and pedestrian use. It was noted there is no city limit or reduced speed sign as you come into town from that direction. Gerth suggested the Council designate the road as a bike path which gives the authority for a 25 mile per hour speed limit. ***Motion by Boone, seconded by Mann to direct staff to contact Itasca County for assistance with this issue, MCU.***

**Replacement of Public Works Truck:** ***Motion by Mann, seconded by Gustafson to purchase a 2015 Ford F250 from Powell Auto in the amount of \$28,940.00, MCU.***

**5K Run/Walk:** Dexi Maxa requested permission to hold a 5K within the city utilizing streets and the RiverWalk trail. Runners would be encouraged to bring their dog and required to use a leash and pick up after their dog. The Council noted that traffic cones should be used, and participants should sign a waiver. ***Motion by Mann to grant permission based on the stated stipulations, seconded by Maxa, MCU.***

***Motion to adjourn at 6:53 by Francisco, seconded by Gustafson, MCU.***

Angela L. Storlie  
City Clerk/Treasurer