

City of Bigfork

Work Session & Regular City Council Meeting February 9, 2016 7:00 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Randy Nei

Also Present: Itasca County Commissioner Terry Snyder, Joe Zimmer

Mayor Pifher called the work session to order at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Snyder's RiverWalk Trail update was expanded to include County updates on various topics. Law enforcement coverage was discussed and it was agreed that Pifher would visit with Itasca County Sheriff Vic Williams on possibilities, though the Council has already determined that there is not budget for a municipal police officer at this time. Clerk Storlie will work with the Bigfork School to arrange a daytime Council meeting at the school that would involve students and support their curriculum. Pifher closed the work session and opened the regular meeting at 7:15 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Mayor Pifher opened the public forum. As no one 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 Francisco, motion carried unanimously (MCU).

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

- 1. minutes of the January 12th regular City Council meeting,***
- 2. City Clerk's office report for January 2016,***
- 3. Financial reports for January 2016,***
- 4. Public Works Department report for January 2016,***
- 5. payroll and timecards for January 15th and 29th paydays in the amount of \$6,385.14***
- 6. claims paid in the amount of \$5,892.99 and claims for payment in the amount of \$19,701.85***

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

County Update – Terry Snyder: Commissioner Snyder had several updates and information for the Council beginning with a report on the recent land classification meeting. There is a parcel of tax forfeit property within the City of Bigfork that Habitat for Humanity may be interested in obtaining for a building site. The County would work with Habitat to prepare the property for building on.

Snyder gave an update on the County Road 225 Canister/Dump site. The County is working with Bigfork Township (who was found to be the true owner of the property) on a 5-year lease

agreement during which time the County will make plans to develop a new canister site on the County-owned property located just east of the current site. Operations will continue as usual. Snyder reported that Highway 38 reconstruction scheduled for 2017 is still moving forward. The stretch of road from Pughole Lake to Marcell will be completed beginning in April of 2017. The road will have to be completely closed and the State is working with the County on a plan for a 24-hour shuttle service and temporary re-allocation of ambulance and fire service areas to ensure continual access and coverage.

Last week Snyder brought Ida Rukavina (Senator Klobuchar's aide) and Jordan Metzger (Representative Nolan's aide) to Bigfork. They toured Bigfork Valley Hospital and discussed Veteran's issues, then met at City Hall to talk about rural municipal issues. The need for a backup well for the City's municipal water supply was the main topic of this discussion. Federal funding is not the best option for the City due to the time it takes to get through the process. The City is already in the process of applying for a grant from the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB) for a portion of the funds needed. Snyder recommended that the City continue to pursue this avenue. Snyder has been working with Itasca County Lobbyist and former State Representative Loren Solberg to see if the project could be included in the 2016 State bonding bill. Solberg is also pursuing potential funding through a new State budget line item for municipal water and sewer projects. Snyder will keep the City up to date on progress.

The Commissioner's final update was the RiverWalk Trail project. As previously discussed, the bids for the project did not come in as low as we had hoped and the project had a shortfall of about \$141,000. Snyder was successful in obtaining funding from the IRRRB and the Blandin Foundation to make up \$100,000 of that shortfall. The rest will be made up by replacing some contracted engineering work with County Engineering Department staff time. County staff will be in Bigfork later this week to begin surveying and flagging work. The contractor will be mobilizing equipment the following week. Snyder stated that Itasca County Highway Engineer Karin Grandia would be setting up a public pre-construction meeting within the next month to educate the public on the project and let them know what to expect during construction. Snyder noted that Senators Tomassoni and Saxhaug, as well as Rural Community Coordinator Tim Johnson were instrumental in obtaining the funding for this project. This project will provide the area with the unique asset of an ADA-compliant trail that connects our downtown to the school, arts center, and medical complex.

Resolution 2016-03 – IRRRB Public Works Grant Application: This resolution authorizes the submission of a grant application to IRRRB for Well #6 and accepts funding if approved. ***Motion by adopt Resolution 2016-04 by Johnson, seconded by E. Storlie, MCU.***

NEW BUSINESS

MN Historical and Cultural Heritage Grant Agreement: ***Motion by Johnson to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute the grant agreement with the Minnesota Historical Society for City Hall Restoration, seconded by Francisco, MCU.***

Resolution 2016-04 – MnDOT Grant Agreement: This resolution accepts the grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for Airport Operations and Maintenance and authorizes the Mayor and Clerk to execute the same. ***Motion by Johnson to adopt Resolution 2016-04, seconded by Francisco, MCU.***

Bergquist Company Evacuation Plan: Henkel (The Bergquist Company) has requested access to City Hall as a staging area in the event their employees have to be evacuated for any reason. This would involve supplying a building key to them. The Council desired to have a signed agreement in place with Henkel addressing any liability issues and potential damages to the facility due to this use. The Clerk will prepare an agreement. Pending acceptance of the agreement by Henkel, ***motion to approve Henkel's use of City Hall as an evacuation site by Francisco, seconded by E. Storlie, MCU.***

ISD #318 Beach Use Agreement: ISD #318 and a group of partners have submitted a grant application to the Northland Foundation to provide swim and water safety instruction to students in this area. The group would like the City's permission to use the Bigfork Beach as one of the sites for these lessons. The Council was in favor of this provided the group is awarded the grant and pending an agreement between the City and School District regarding liability and facility use. ISD #318 is drafting a proposed agreement. The issue was tabled until the March meeting.

OTHER

Training Requests: ***Motion by Johnson and seconded by Francisco to approve Joe Zimmer's attendance at the Minnesota Rural Water Association Technical Conference and Angie Storlie's attendance at the Minnesota Clerks and Finance Officers Association Annual Conference, MCU.***

Motion to adjourn by Johnson at 8:20 p.m., seconded by Francisco, MCU.

Angela L. Storlie
City Clerk/Treasurer