

# City of Bigfork

Work Session & Regular City Council Meeting  
January 13, 2015  
5:30 p.m.

**Members Present:** Mayor Amy Pifher, Peter Johnson, Randy Nei, Andrew Francisco

**Members Absent:** Eric Storlie

**Also Present:** Joe Zimmer, Becki Passeri, John Licke

Mayor Pifher called the work session to order at 5:40 p.m. Pifher discussed the annual appointments. City Attorney John Licke was present to discuss water account #765.

Pifher called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Also Present for Regular Meeting:** Warren & Caroline Welch, Tim Hagen, Mike and Jo Nolan

The Oath of Office was administered to Mayor Amy Pifher and Councilmembers Peter Johnson and Andrew Francisco. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Pifher opened the public hearing on the proposed street vacation. Jo Nolan asked about any future vacations and Pifher responded that the City had none planned but would consider any requests if they had one. As no one else wished to speak on this item, the public hearing was closed at 6:08 p.m.

Mayor Pifher opened the regular public forum. As no one wished to address the Council, the public forum was closed.

Additions to the agenda included the 2015 Pay Equity Report and RiverWalk Trail Utilities Review. The PW Office Desk was removed from the agenda.

***Motion by Johnson to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Nei, motion carried unanimously (MCU).***

**Consent Agenda:** Pifher drew attention to the December 2014 financial report and pointed out the general fund balance as of 12/31/14 which was (\$224.14). She congratulated the 2014 Council and staff on the accomplishment of all but eliminating the general fund deficit, as the balance on 1/1/14 was (\$72,440.22). ***Motion by Johnson, seconded by Nei and carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda including:***

- 1. minutes of the December 9<sup>th</sup> regular City Council meeting,***
- 2. City Clerk's office report for December 2014,***
- 3. Financial reports for December 2014,***
- 4. Public Works Department report for December 2014,***
- 5. Approving Amy Pifher, Angela L. Storlie and Randy Nei as authorized agents on all of the City's accounts at the First State Bank of Bigfork***
- 6. payroll and timecards for December 5<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> (council/fire department), 19<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> (cemetery) and January 2<sup>nd</sup> paydays in the amount of \$19,248.58***
- 7. claims paid in the amount of \$9,224.54 and claims for payment in the amount of \$92,096.68***

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**2014/2015 Snowplowing Contracts:** *Motion by Johnson to accept the bid from TNT Excavating in the amount of \$1,400 per time on an as needed basis, seconded by Francisco, MCU.* Tim Hagen stated that he would like to go in and spend 3-4 hours cleaning up behind the lights so there won't be frozen snowbanks in the way for the next snow we get. This work would be billed on the extra time rate of \$130 per hour. The Council was agreeable to this plan.

**Resident Emails:** Pifher reviewed an email from resident Howard McKinney which contained a complaint that road maintenance, in particular snow plowing, has been lacking. The Council felt that the Public Works department has been doing a good job of snow removal. Pifher noted that the employees come in very early in the morning to get as much of the job done as possible before traffic comes into town. She noted that Zimmer was willing to come in early on a regular basis if the Council desired a split shift for the department. Johnson asked Zimmer to make a priority of snow removal around the Fire Hall and on Ash Street to the ambulance garage as those are emergency service vehicle routes.

Pifher presented a second email from McKinney expressing concerns about water availability for the house fire that occurred in December. Johnson explained that the fire department had decided not to utilize the fire hydrant due to the amount of manpower they had available when they first responded to the fire. Trucks were filled at the Fire Hall and water shuttled to the fire. He added that there was no way to know how much water was in the water tower when they started fighting the fire and also no way to know how much was used during the fire, however both the fire department and the public works department were pleased with how well the water tower did keep up. Water was used from the nearby creek once it became apparent that the structure could not be saved. Zimmer had requested that Bigfork Valley Hospital utilize their own well during that time in order to increase the amount of water available for firefighting efforts. Johnson felt that McKinney's main concern was that the City was operating on only one well and he noted that the City Council would be looking into options for a second well later this spring.

**Water Account #765:** This account has been disconnected for non-payment since August of 2014. At the December 2014 meeting, the Council voted to assess the past due balance to the property owner's 2016 taxes. Since that time, the City has learned that the account owner hooked up to a private well which is not allowed by City ordinance. Licke noted that there have been other instances where private wells existed on property served by the City water system and in each of those instances, the private wells were not used. He added that the Council has been consistent in the past with enforcing the requirements of the ordinance. *Motion by Francisco to require the account owner to hook back up to City water service, as required by City ordinance, seconded by Nei, motion carried with Johnson abstaining.*

## NEW BUSINESS

**Resolution 2015-01:** This resolution sets the appointments for 2015. *Motion to approve Resolution 2015-01 by Nei, seconded by Francisco, MCU.*

**Resolution 2015-02:** This resolution vacates portions of Elm and Spruce Streets. *Motion to approve Resolution 2015-02 by Johnson, seconded by Francisco, MCU.*

**2015 Insurance Renewal:** *Motion to not waive the monetary limits for tort liability by Johnson, seconded by Nei, MCU.*

**2015 Pay Equity Report:** *Motion by approve the pay equity implementation report form by Johnson, seconded by Nei, MCU.*

**RiverWalk Trail Utilities Review:** Zimmer stated that the engineer for the RiverWalk Trail project has inquired if the City will replace any utilities in conjunction with the road reconstruction related to the project. If the City does not wish to do so, the engineer would like a letter stating they do not plan to do so for at least the next twenty years. The Council did not want to replace the utilizes at this time and the engineer will be notified of this.

**OTHER:**

Storlie reported that she received a request that the City plow the beach road up to the gate so that ice-fisherman can park there; however she also received a complaint that the beach property was not to be used as a public access and that this had been a condition of the property being sold to the City. It was the Council's determination that the beach road not be plowed.

Pifher opened the public forum again. Warren Welch spoke to the problem of pigeons in the City. Johnson volunteered to do some research on this and it will be added to the Council's February agenda.

*Motion to adjourn at 6:57 p.m. by Johnson, seconded by Nei, MCU.*

Angela L. Storlie  
*City Clerk/Treasurer*