

City of Bigfork

City Council Meeting

July 11, 2017

6:00 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Peter Johnson and Andrew Francisco

Also Present: Becki Passeri, Travis Lovdahl, Madison Lovdahl, Randy Rhodes, Mark Hallan, Bryan Boone, Cora Boone, Bryson Boone and Mari Boone

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Pifher opened the public forum. Bryan Boone gave an update on the Bigfork Work Days projects organized by the Assembly of God church and staffed by Rural Compassion and Convoy of Hope groups. He thanked those who sponsored disc golf holes including the Pizza Parlor, First State Bank of Bigfork, Grace Community Church, Lakeside Lumber, Powell Auto, Timberwolf Inn, Edge of the Wilderness Realty and The Shop. Signs for the course are being finished up and they will also be doing final branch trimming, leveling the tee boxes, and adding fill/mulch to walking paths in low areas. Boone stated he was very happy with how the course turned out and gave special thanks to City employees Joe and Aaron for all their help during the week. Boone next thanked all those that contributed to the skating rink and warming house projects including the Blandin Foundation, First State Bank of Bigfork, Minnesota Power Foundation, Henkel Foundation, Operation Round-Up, Northwoods Lumber, Grand Rapids Parks & Rec Department, RK Construction and Hubbard Electric. A final coat of paint still needs to be added to the rink and the fascia on the warming shack needs to be completed. They will also be insulating the walls after the electrical work is complete and adding a deck to the front of the building. Lastly, Boone noted that picnic tables for the City would be built with the leftover lumber and they will be putting blocks under the pavilion that was moved to the beach.

Randy Rhodes requested that the City have an ordinance requiring residents and businesses to keep their grass cut and he offered to donate his own time to help anyone who needed assistance with getting this done. The City does have an ordinance restricting grass height to twelve inches.

As no one else wished to address the Council, the public forum was closed.

Fire Department Mutual Aid agreement was added to the agenda.

Motion by Pifher to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Maxa, motion carried unanimously (MCU).

Consent Agenda: Motion by E. Storlie seconded by Maxa and carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda including:

1. *minutes of the June 13, 2017 regular City Council meeting,*
2. *City Clerk's office report for June 2017,*
3. *financial reports for June 2017,*
4. *Public Works Department report for June 2017,*
5. *payroll and timecards for June 16th (regular and retro to correct payroll error) and 30th paydays in the amount of \$7,586.07*
6. *claims paid in the amount of \$14,352.81 and claims for payment in the amount of \$64,205.19*
7. *Resolution 2017-02 authorizing budgeted transfers for 2017*

Results of June 13, 2017 Closed Meeting: Mayor Pifher noted that at the closed session held on June 13, 2017, performance reviews of all three City employees were conducted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Well #6: Mark Hallan of Widseth, Smith & Nolting was present to update the Council on the timeline for the Well #6 and treatment plant upgrade project. The City has procured funding from IRRRB. WSN will be putting together specifications and submitting them to the Minnesota Department of Health for their approval. At the September Council meeting, WSN will ask for authorization to go out for public bids for the project, with construction to take place October/November.

City Hall Restoration Phase I Final Financial Report: The Clerk provided a financial report for Phase I of the City Hall Restoration project. Total project costs were \$311,894.25. The Minnesota Historical Society Grant amount was \$259,883.00 with the B.I.G. contributing \$25,587.27 leaving a difference of \$26,423.98. The City Council had previously budgeted \$10,648.00 for the project. The remaining \$15,825.98 will need to be taken from the General Investment Fund. ***Motion by E. Storlie seconded by Maxa to authorize the Clerk to transfer \$15,825.98 from the General Investment Fund to the City Hall Restoration Fund, MCU.***

Motion by E. Storlie seconded by Maxa to move forward with an application to the Minnesota Historical Society for funding for Phase II of the project, MCU.

Beach Security: Mayor Pifher reported that the beach is not getting locked up. Public Works will be reminded to do this on a daily basis. It was recommended that staff also post a notice on the gate that it will be locked at 5:00 p.m. each evening, so beach-goers should park outside the gate after that time.

NEW BUSINESS

Union Contract Negotiation Process: A letter has been received from IUOE Local 49 regarding negotiations for the union contract which expires 12/31/2017. It was determined that the full Council will negotiate starting in August, one hour prior to the regular Council meeting.

Temporary Public Works Position: Public Works Lead Joe Zimmer will be on leave for approximately three months starting in October. The Council desired to hire a temporary replacement and have that person work with Zimmer for a month prior to his leave. It was determined that Public Works Commissioners Peter Johnson and Drew Francisco should meet with Zimmer to come up with a work plan and schedule for this position.

Emergency Siren Upgrade: Zimmer has spoken with Itasca County regarding an upgraded emergency siren that could be remotely activated by the Sheriff's Department. A quote was received from Federal Signal Corporation in the amount of \$1,575.00. ***Motion to upgrade the siren by E. Storlie, seconded by Maxa, MCU.***

Fire Department Mutual Aid Agreement: Fire Chief Travis Lovdahl presented an updated mutual aid agreement between Itasca County fire departments. This has been in place since 2003. ***Motion by Maxa to approve the agreement, seconded by E. Storlie, MCU.***

Lovdahl informed the Council of a few issues that have come up recently for the Fire Department that will be bigger expenditures. The infrared camera stopped worked a few months ago. While this piece of equipment is not an absolute necessity item, it is a very useful tool. A new camera has been ordered at a cost of about \$8,000. Another \$4,000 was spent on large diameter hose to allow easier hook-up to fire hydrants.

Lovdahl noted that the Department plans to put a flatbed on the pickup that was purchased several months ago. They will also purchase a large pump so the rig can be used to pump high volumes of water from a lake or other water source. The estimated cost for this will be \$35,000.

Building improvements have been discussed including gutters, office flooring and new gear racks. These items have an estimated cost of \$15,000. Lovdahl noted they would like to have all these things completed by winter and they have funds in investments to cover the cost. The Council expressed their support of all these expenditures.

Motion to adjourn by Pifher at 6:56 p.m., seconded by E. Storlie, MCU.

Angela L. Storlie
City Clerk/Treasurer