

City of Bigfork

Work Session & Regular City Council Meeting July 8, 2014 5:30 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Amy Pifher, Peter Johnson, Krista Lane, Dave Evensen and Randy Nei

Members Absent: none

Also Present: Becki Passeri and Ann McGarry

Mayor Amy Pifher called the work session to order at 5:30 p.m. The Council discussed the scheduling of budget meetings and union negotiations.

Pifher reported on a discussion she had with Rick Braunig of MnDOT Aeronautics who had performed an inspection of the airport last week. Three items were found that need attention including brush and overgrown areas along the runway, incorrect color lights in certain areas, and cracks/secondary cracks in the pavement.

Johnson reported that in discussion with Howard McKinney, he was informed that McKinney had at one time offered the well on his property to the City in exchange for an unregulated spigot to water his garden. Evensen stated that was true, however the City is unable to utilize that well due to issues with radon and the high cost of piping the water to the existing water treatment plant.

Lane suggested that the City do something to participate in Crazy Days coming up at the end of July. There was discussion on the request for a farmer's market and it was suggested that could be the City's contribution to Crazy Days.

There was discussion on a past due water account that is in breach of their payment contract. The Public Works Department is attempting to disconnect water service to this property but they are having difficulty accessing it due to the presence of dogs at the home.

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

Also Present for Regular Meeting: Jeff Ledin and City Attorney John Licke

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the public forum opened. Pifher thanked Joe and Aaron on behalf of the Wilderness Day Committee for everything they did before and after the celebration. She also thanked Dan Buckingham and his crew for donating their time to start t-ball for the kids this summer. As no one wished to address the Council, the public forum was closed.

Reminders from the Mayor: Pifher gave the following reminders to all citizens:

- An information request form must be used for all inquiries, as per City policy. The form is available at City Hall or on the website.
- The City is not responsible for the distribution of Bigfork Valley Hospital minutes. Those should be requested directly from Bigfork Valley.
- The August Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 13th due to a conflict with primary election day on the regular Tuesday meeting date.

- Filing for city elected offices begins July 29th and goes through August 12th. Offices up for election include the 2-year Mayor seat, two 4-year Council seats and the remaining two years of a 4-year Council seat.

Changes to the agenda included the addition of a training request and a donation request to New Business. *Motion by Lane to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Johnson, motion carried unanimously (MCU).*

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

- 1. minutes of the June 10th regular and the June 11th and 26th special City Council meetings,*
- 2. City Clerk's office report for June 2014,*
- 3. Financial reports for June 2014,*
- 4. Public Works Department report for June 2014,*
- 5. payroll and timecards for June 6th and 20th paydays in the amount of \$6,538.42,*
- 6. claims paid in the amount of \$6,120.33 and claims for payment in the amount of \$96,789.27*

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Jeff Ledin: Jeff Ledin of Short-Elliott-Hendrickson was present to discuss the water project. Ledin stated he had planned to attend the last few meetings but his schedule had not allowed it, and noted that everyone is trying to get this well project completed. Pifher asked what Ledin's purpose was at tonight's meeting and Ledin answered that there had been some back and forth emails regarding pay requests. Pifher informed him that those had been taken care of and were on the agenda for approval tonight. Ledin said that he is currently operating outside the time limit of SEH's contract and would like some clarity and closure so that he knows now to proceed from here on. Johnson had questions on general oversight of the project and the role of advisor, expressing his displeasure in having never even met Mr. Ledin even though he's been on the Council for almost a year. Johnson also questioned if the proper investigation and research was done prior to choose a drilling site for well #5. Ledin responded that the line of thinking in choosing the site he did was that it was meant to replace a well that has produced sufficiently for the City since 1945 and so it was placed as close to that well as possible. He added that he has always followed his industry's standard of care throughout this and all projects. When Licke questioned what that standard entails, Ledin responded that he uses his professional experience to make the best decision possible. Johnson asked why Ledin has not been on site since the drilling of well #5 began and Ledin stated SEH has been in a dispute with the City over whether or not their services are under contract. Pifher clarified that the dispute is actually over an invoice Ledin submitted for work over a 12-week time period related to the damaged control panel. Ledin stated that he would like to continue to help the City with this project because he has a lot invested in it. Pifher felt that the City had done all the work themselves on this project other than the plans. Licke asked what decisions need to be made here tonight and Pifher responded that the decisions have all already been made. The City has an agreement with Keys Well Drilling for a plan going forward and the approval of the Minnesota Department of Health. She stated it was time to wrap up this discussion and informed Ledin the City would call him if he was needed. Ledin exited the meeting at this point.

Main Lift Station Quote: Dakota Pump provided a quote in the amount of \$9,760.94 for repairs needed to the main lift station structure and pumps. *Motion by Evensen, seconded by Nei to accept the quote from Dakota Pump for the work needed, MCU.*

Planning & Zoning Commission Recommendation: The Planning & Zoning Commission is recommending the vacation of portions of road right-of-way along Elm and Spruce Streets due to a request by the Marthalers. They propose that the easterly 20' of Elm Street between Ash and Lime Streets, as well as the north 10' and south 10' of Spruce Street between Elm Street and Main Avenue be vacated. *Motion by Johnson, seconded by Nei to direct the City Clerk and City Attorney to proceed with the recommended vacation.*

Well #5/Engineering: Curt Meyer from the engineering firm of Widseth, Smith and Nolting arrived at the meeting at this point (6:30 p.m.) and Pifher explained to him that we are in the process of drilling a new well. She provided him the latest information from the Minnesota Department of Health and asked if WSN could help finish out the project. Meyer stated that he would work with Mark Hallan, also from WSN, on a proposal to review the project to date and provide completion services. Pay request #13 and final pay request #14 were received from Eagle Construction and reviewed. *Motion to approve pay requests #13 and #14 from Eagle Construction by Lane, seconded by Nei, MCU.*

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2014-14: This resolution appoints election judges for the 2014 primary and general elections and sets their rate of pay. *Motion by Evensen, seconded by Johnson to pass Resolution 2014-14, MCU.*

Resolution 2014-15: This resolution authorizes an amendment to the City's agreement with MnDOT Aeronautics for airport Operations & Maintenance funds. It increases the amount of funds the City is eligible to receive for the 2014/2015 fiscal year. *Motion by Johnson, seconded by Nei to pass Resolution 2014-15, MCU.*

Quote for front entrance safety film: A quote has been received for the replacement of the safety/sun film on the main entrance doors/windows. Evensen reported that replacement of the front entrance is included in the first phase of the City Hall restoration project which will hopefully receive funding this fall. No action was taken.

Request for Farmer's Market/Crazy Days: A request has been received for the City to start a farmer's market. Lane expressed her interest in the City participating in the annual Crazy Days event. *Motion by Lane, seconded by Nei to designate the lawn area north of the Fire Hall to be used as a farmer's market on July 24th and every Wednesday and Saturday thereafter, and for the City to advertise this on Facebook and once in the Deerpath Shopper, MCU*

Sale of Beach Raft: An inquiry was made as to whether or not the City would like to sell the raft. *Motion by Evensen, seconded by Johnson to call for sealed bids to be due by the next Council meeting, with a minimum bid of \$50, and reserving the right to reject any and all bids, MCU.*

Training Request: Storlie requested permission to attend the Minnesota Clerk's and Finance Officer's Association Advanced Academy class in September. The cost is \$195 and Storlie has been awarded a \$150 grant from the MCFOA to attend. *Motion by Lane, seconded by Evensen to send Storlie to this training, MCU.*

Donation Request: A donation request was received from the Itasca County Historical Society. *Motion by Evensen, seconded by Nei to budget for the requested donation of \$446 in 2015, MCU.*

OTHER:

A budget meeting was set for immediately following the August 13, 2104 regular Council meeting. Union negotiations will start on September 9th at 7:00 p.m. if the union rep is available then.

*Note: Following the meeting and prior to the writing of these minutes, it was determined that the union negotiation meeting will take place at 4:00 p.m. on September 9th rather than at 7:00 p.m. This will be a closed session as allowed by Statue.

Motion to adjourn at 7:07 p.m. by Evensen seconded by Nei, MCU.

Angela L. Storlie
City Clerk/Treasurer