

City of Bigfork

Work Session & Regular City Council Meeting

March 10, 2015

7:00 p.m.

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

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Joe Zimmer, Warren Welch, Curt Meyer

Mayor Pifher called the work session to order at 7:00 p.m. Council reviewed the claims. Zimmer stated the Public Works Department is in need of a new metal detector. Johnson reported that he has heard numerous inquiries as to the potential for a police officer in the future. Council discussed approaching neighboring townships again to see if there is any interest in hiring a joint officer. Council also discussed preparing the 2016 budget and tax levy to include an officer and all associated costs. It was felt that this would be a good way to gauge how strongly people felt about having a police department back in the City because they would have the actual numbers in front of them when their proposed property tax statements are sent. The Clerk reported that we are getting ready to offer a draft/automatic payment option for water/sewer customers.

Pifher closed the work session and called the regular meeting to order at 7:16 p.m.

Also Present for Regular Meeting: none

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Pifher opened the public forum. Pifher made note of the upcoming "Coffee with the County" event set for Tuesday, March 17th at 6:00 p.m. at the City Hall. District 2 County Commissioner Terry Snyder, along with staff members from various County departments, will be on hand to discuss the Bigfork Canister Site, bridge replacement, highway maintenance, and welfare fraud. As no one from the public wished to address the Council, the public forum was closed.

Draft payments for water/sewer billings, the purchase of a new metal detector, and city clean-up days were added to the agenda. *Motion by Johnson to approve the agenda as amended, 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 February 10th regular City Council meeting,*
- 2. City Clerk's office report for February 2015,*
- 3. Financial reports for February 2015,*
- 4. Public Works Department report for February 2015,*
- 5. payroll and timecards for February 13th and 27th paydays in the amount of \$6,188.40*
- 6. claims paid in the amount of \$10,556.06 and claims for payment in the amount of \$53,405.17*

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Engineering Update: Curt Meyer of Widseth, Smith & Nolting was present to give the Council an update. He reported that Mark Hallan from their office has completed and closed out everything

associated with the old water system improvement project, including well #5. The IRRRB paid out on the grant awarded for well #5 even though we did not end up with a successful well. Meyer stated that any entity approached for funding this time around, including the IRRRB, is going to want a front-end study done. The cost to do such a study is between \$10,000 and \$20,000 which would potentially be reimbursable through any entity that provides funding for a subsequent project. Meyer stated that, while anything can happen, the City is in good shape with the one well performing as it has been for us, so the Council does have some time to think this over. It was the general consensus of the Council to budget for this study in 2016. Meyer questioned if the City would like WSN to take a look at anything associated with the utilities along the proposed RiverWalk Trail route and Zimmer responded that the Council had determined they will not be updating any utilities in conjunction with that project. Meyer's final item was to inform the Council that he will be working with the Clerk to familiarize himself with the water and wastewater systems and their associated operating costs and fees.

NEW BUSINESS

Fire Department Equipment Fundraiser: Mayor Pifher reported that the Fire Department had received a tremendous response to their request for donations toward new equipment and asked the Council if they would like to consider a contribution. The clerk had researched whether or not gambling tax revenue could be utilized for this and found that it could not. The police car investment fund which was tapped for a contribution to the RiverWalk Trail has \$4,300 remaining in it. The Council felt that since a police officer is again being considered, those funds should be left in investments for now.

VFW Request - light for City Hall flagpole: The VFW is requesting that the City purchase a light for the flag outside of City Hall and they provided pricing information for a solar-powered unit. *Motion by Nei, seconded by Johnson to purchase the light at a cost of \$112, MCU.*

First Call Information and Referral contribution request: A request for funding was received from First Call Information and Referral along with an explanation of their services. As this was not budgeted for in 2015, no action was taken. This request will be considered when setting the 2016 budget.

Draft Payments for Water/Sewer Billings: The Clerk reported that she has been working with the bank and our billing software vendor to offer automatic payment to water/sewer customers. The bank fees for this service are \$25 per month plus \$0.05 per transaction. *Motion by Johnson seconded by Nei to contract with the First State Bank of Bigfork to provide this payment option for water/sewer customers, MCU.*

Purchase Request: Zimmer reported that the Public Works Department's metal detector is no longer operable and requested permission to purchase a replacement at a cost of around \$750. *Motion by Francisco, seconded by Storlie to authorize the purchase of a new metal detector, MCU.*

City Clean-Up Days: The annual spring clean-up days will be Friday May 15th and Saturday May 16th. Dumpsters will again be set up at the Fire Hall and residents or taxpayers of the City will be able to bring certain items for free.

Motion to adjourn at 7:43 p.m. by Johnson, seconded by Nei, MCU.

Angela L. Storlie
City Clerk/Treasurer