

## City of Bigfork

### Work Session & Regular City Council Meeting March 8, 2016 7:00 p.m.

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

**Members Absent:** Eric Storlie

**Also Present:** Joe Zimmer, Becki Passeri, Ray Cole, Curt Meyer, Dragi Ivonovic

Mayor Pifher called the work session to order at 7:08 p.m. Pifher reported on a complaint she received about Riverside Home residents not cleaning up after their dogs on footbridge path. It was noted that an unsigned note was left on the Council table listing concerns about Riverside Home and Freedom Ranch. Pifher closed the work session and opened the regular meeting at 7:18 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Mayor Pifher opened the public forum. Dragi Ivonovic addressed the Council about a parking issue on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue near the school. The truck that his son drives was towed but the street is not posted as “no parking”. Ivonovic felt that either parking should be allowed or everyone that parks there needs to be towed, adding that there are cars parked along both sides of that street during ball games. Pifher noted that the students who were parking in the problem area were warned on three separate occasions not to park there. She explained that it is an issue for the City during business hours when the Public Works Department is trying to plow. This item was added to the agenda under New Business for further discussion. As no one else from the public wished to address the Council, the public forum was closed.

Curt Meyer of Widseth, Smith & Nolting and Resolution 2016-05 were added under Unfinished Business. Parking along 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave, fire department training and a water line issue were added to New Business

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

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

- 1. minutes of the February 9<sup>th</sup> regular City Council meeting,***
- 2. City Clerk's office report for February 2016,***
- 3. Financial reports for February 2016,***
- 4. Public Works Department report for February 2016,***
- 5. payroll and timecards for February 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> paydays in the amount of \$6,241.59***
- 6. claims paid in the amount of \$6,138.70 and claims for payment in the amount of \$20,873.07***

**Ray Cole – Freedom Ranch:** Cole thanked the Council for allowing him to come and present about Freedom Ranch. He read Freedom Ranch’s vision statement, clarifying that they are not a treatment facility. Freedom Ranch will be a faith-based transitional living facility for men after successful completion of an addiction treatment program. There will be a focus on learning job skills and work ethic and an equine therapy component. Ten to twelve men will be in the program at a time. The location being considered is the old Bello North property east of Effie on Co Rd 42. Participants will be required to pass a background test as well as a urine test before being accepted. There will be a zero-tolerance policy for use of drugs or alcohol during their stay. Johnson asked about the project timeline and Cole answered that they believe they are about two years away from being operational. Johnson asked about staffing and Cole stated they would likely have a house manager to live on-site full time, an executive director and a therapist. Pifher noted that concerns listed in the unsigned letter included depletion of the City’s tax base due to non-profit status and having individuals unsupervised around the City. As Freedom Ranch is not to be located within City limits, these issues were not a concern.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Curt Meyer – Widseth, Smith & Nolting:** Meyer reported that WSN is working on the City’s Public Facilities Authority application for funding for well #6 which is due by the end of the month. *Motion by Johnson to pass Resolution 2016-05 authorizing application to MN PFA, seconded by Francisco, MCU.*

**Resolution for Approval of Classification and Sale of Tax Forfeit Property:** Itasca County has requested that the City of Bigfork approve their classification and sale of a certain parcel of tax forfeit property within the City. This is the property that was discussed by County Commissioner Terry Snyder at the February Council meeting as a potential site for a Habitat for Humanity house. *Motion to approve the resolution by Johnson, seconded by Francisco, MCU.*

**Law Enforcement Coverage:** Pifher noted that she spoke with Itasca County Sheriff Vic Williams as discussed at the February meeting. The County would charge \$600 per 8-hour shift for a deputy to be specifically assigned to Bigfork for the day. It was the general consensus of the Council that the City’s long-term goal should be to re-establish a self-sustaining City police department rather than spend money on such limited coverage. It was determined that a public forum on the topic of law enforcement would be held at the start of the May meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Fire Department Training:** Johnson requested permission for Fire Department members to take driver’s training for emergency services. The cost is about \$800 which includes booklets, a test, and certification for those that pass. This was approved by general consensus of the Council.

**Rosy Street Water Service:** The residence at 107 Rosy Street experienced a water leak and broken pipe under the home over the weekend which required a plumber. The homeowner is requesting that the curb stop be moved because it is located so far from the residence. The Council agreed that it is not equitable that some property owners are responsible for longer service lines than others, however due to this particular residence’s location from the nearest

water main and the cost involved, moving the curb stop is not a viable option. It was suggested that an ordinance amendment be considered that would re-define where City responsibility ends and property owner responsibility begins. The Clerk was asked to research this for the next meeting. The property owner also had concerns about the quality of her water. As she is located at a dead-end which could not cost-effectively be looped, the Public Works Department flushes hydrants on a regular basis to help with quality issues. Zimmer has ordered a testing kit and will have the property owner's water tested which will assist in setting up an effective in-home filtration system.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Ave Parking:** Councilmembers discussed parking along 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue in relation to Ivonovic's statements during the public forum. It was the general consensus of the Council that it is a safety issue to have vehicles parked along both sides of that street, making the way nearly impassable for any emergency vehicle that might need to use the street. ***Motion by Johnson, seconded by Francisco to post 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave as "no parking at any time" from the southern edge of school property to the intersection with Golf Course Lane, seconded by Francisco, MCU.***

## **OTHER**

**Training Request:** ***Motion by Johnson and seconded by Nei to approve Angie Storlie's attendance at the International Institute of Municipal Clerks Annual Conference in May 2016, MCU.*** Storlie was awarded a grant from the IIMC covering the registration fee for this conference.

Johnson inquired as to prior Council discussion about feeding deer in the City. A potential ban its was discussed in 2005 and in 2014 but no action was taken as public sentiment against a ban was significant.

The Clerk was directed to send a letter to the owners of Riverside Home requesting that they speak to their residents about cleaning up after their dogs on the walkways of the City.

Johnson again referred to the unsigned letter that was left on the Council table. Several concerns regarding Riverside Home were listed and Johnson responded that, from the City's standpoint, the residents of Riverside have the same rights as every other resident and the City is not aware of any court orders or other restrictions on these individuals.

***Motion to adjourn by Johnson at 8:17 p.m., seconded by Pifher, MCU.***

Angela L. Storlie  
City Clerk/Treasurer