

City of Bigfork
City Council Meeting
May 8, 2017
9:30 a.m.
Edge Center for the Arts

Members Present: Mayor Amy Pifher, Andrew Francisco and Peter Johnson

Members Absent: Benjamin Maxa and Eric Storlie

Also Present: Doug Host, Curt Meyer, Kelly Chandler, Joe Zimmer, Scott Patrow, Mrs. Carnahan's 5th Grade Class, Mr. Kaczor's 9th-12th Grade Physical Education Class, Mr. Whittemore's 8th Grade Social Studies Class, Mrs. Pocquette's 7th & 8th Grade Math Class

Mayor Pifher called the meeting to order at 9:30 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Pifher opened the public forum. Mr. Whittemore asked the Council to explain the reason behind their meeting at the school on this day. Pifher responded that the meeting was being held at the school in order to allow easy access for students to see how their local government works. As no one else wished to address the Council, the public forum was closed.

Motion by Johnson to approve the agenda, 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 April 11, 2017 regular City Council meeting,***
- 2. City Clerk's office report for April 2017,***
- 3. financial reports for April 2017,***
- 4. Public Works Department report for April 2017,***
- 5. payroll and timecards for April 21 and May 5 paydays in the amount of \$6,370.14***
- 6. claims paid in the amount of \$7,697.12 and claims for payment in the amount of \$41,960.09***

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Disc Golf Course: Bryan Boone reported that he has all funding in place for the disc golf course and it will be constructed in McGarry Park this June. He reviewed the official disc golf rules and discussed park hours and curfew laws that would pertain to course use. Johnson thanked Boone for his work on this project.

Cedar Street Property Proposal: The Council received an offer for purchase of parcel number 85-460-0066. This property was recently acquired by the City with the intention of selling it to Habitat for Humanity, however that proposal fell through. ***Motion by Johnson to accept the offer of Justin Francis to purchase the property for a cost of \$1,600 and with the understanding that the same will be cleaned up within 90 days of purchase, seconded by Francisco, MCU***

Beach Property Letter: During the initial work on the beach facility plan, it was discovered that the City doesn't own all of the property that the beach currently encompasses. The owner of the property has offered to sell the City the piece that is desired for a cost of \$2,500. ***Motion by Francisco to accept the offer of Timothy Cronen to sell that portion of the property currently being utilized as a beach facility to the City for a cost of \$2,500, seconded by Johnson, MCU.***

Widseth, Smith & Nolting- Beach and Softball Facility Plans: Curt Meyer presented the draft feasibility plans that had been requested by the Council for beach property improvements and for property on the north end of the City to be developed into a softball field. Improvements to the beach property included in the plan are security/visibility improvements, additional parking, lighting, boardwalk, covered picnic shelter and improvements to the changing house. The total estimated cost for all improvements is \$230,118.56 The property being considered for a softball field is located on the corner of Hwy 38 and County Road 14. The total estimated cost for the full development of a field, including a covered seating area, dugouts and a concession stand, is \$339,965.96. The City will use these facility plans to begin applying for funding for these project to potentially be done in the future.

NEW BUSINESS

Clifton Larson Allen – 2016 Audit Review: Doug Host presented the final report on the 2016 audit. Host reviewed information on how a city audit works, the staff from their office that worked on the audit, and the standards they are required to use. Highlights of the audit included:

- No significant deficiencies found
- Two Minnesota legal compliance findings, both related to outside contractors
 - best value procurement process
 - payment and performance bonds
- the 2015 Minnesota legal compliance finding relating to IC134 was resolved
- 6 months of operating revenue in reserves – This is in line with the State Auditor's recommendation of no less than 5 months
- 1.5 years of reserves in the water fund
- 2 years of reserves in the sewer fund
- Overall increase in net worth of about \$100,000 during 2016

Host noted that the City Council has worked hard over the last four years to improve the City's financial health and it is currently in a strong condition.

Itasca County Public Health: Kelly Chandler, Division Manager for Itasca County Public Health was present to discuss e-cigarette legislation. She outlined concerns surrounding e-cigarette use which included:

- appeal to youth due to coming in over 7,000 different flavors and colors
- appeal to youth who might otherwise never start using tobacco products
- false marketing as a safer alternative to other tobacco products or as a cessation method
- ability to be used for illegal substances
- the normalization of seeing tobacco use indoors
- health concerns over the contents of the vapor cloud for both users and second-hand exposure

Chandler reported that in August of 2016, the FDA decided to regulate all tobacco products, including e-cigarettes. This means that warning labels will eventually be required for them and there will be restrictions on sales to youth (which is already in place in Minnesota), sales from vending machines and free samples.

The Itasca County Board is considering legislation that would prohibit e-cigarette use in the same manner as traditional cigarette use and is looking for input from cities. The Council indicated that it would be in support of this legislation.

Councilmember Johnson shared his personal story of tobacco use, including e-cigarettes, and his attempt to quit.

Pifher reminded everyone of the Bigfork Elementary Community Service Work Day which will take place on Wednesday, May 31 from 8:45 to 11:00 a.m.

A question was received from a student about a skate park. Johnson explained the history of trying to get a skate park project going and the difficulties that have been faced in doing so. Boone added that, in addition to the disc golf course he spoke of earlier in the meeting, there is also an ice-skating rink being built this summer near the Fire Hall. It may be possible to incorporate plans for a skate park/basketball court conversion within the ice-skating rink.

Motion to adjourn at 10:43 a.m. by Johnson, seconded by Francisco, MCU.

Angela L. Storlie
City Clerk/Treasurer