

# City of Bigfork

Work Session & Regular City Council Meeting  
February 10, 2015  
7:00 p.m.

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

**Members Absent:** None

**Also Present:** John Licke, John Thomas, Warren Welch

Mayor Pifher called the work session to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilmembers reviewed the claims for payment. The fire department is considering holding a “dunk the junk” fundraiser and would obtain all the necessary permits from the DNR and Gambling Control Board. The Council was in support of this fundraiser. City Attorney John Licke was present to discuss the situation with water account #765. He updated the council on the theft of water charge that came about after the account owner had illegally hooked City water back up to the residence after being disconnected for non-payment. Licke explained that because the deputy did not have a search warrant when he accompanied City staff onto the property, the evidence would not have been allowed under the 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment and City Prosecuting Attorney John Dimich had dismissed the case rather than bringing it to court. Since that time, it has come to light that the account owner has hooked up the residence to a private well that was pre-existing on the property. This is not allowed by City ordinance. John Thomas, husband of the owner of the property where this account is located, was present at the meeting. He stated that they, as property owner, should have been notified sooner than they were as to what the situation was with the account. He suggested that the account should be put into their name from now on and indicated that he would be willing to work with the City to ensure the disconnection of the private well, payment of the current charges on the account, and connecting the residence back up to the City water system.

Pifher closed the work session and called the regular meeting to order at 7:25 p.m.

**Also Present for Regular Meeting:** none

City Clerk Angie Storlie administered the Oath of Office to Councilmember Eric Storlie. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Pifher opened the public forum. Johnson reported that he had done some research into Warren Welch’s inquiry about pigeons. He learned from the DNR that a person is not allowed to use a firearm in city limits but a pellet gun or traps are legal and you can take as many pigeons as you want. As no one from the public wished to address the Council, the public forum was closed.

The Public Works Truck was removed from the agenda. *Motion by Johnson to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Nei, 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 January 13<sup>th</sup> regular City Council meeting,*
- 2. City Clerk’s office report for January 2015,*

3. *Financial reports for January 2015,*
4. *Public Works Department report for January 2015,*
5. *payroll and timecards for January 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> paydays in the amount of \$6,766.09*
6. *claims paid in the amount of \$5,777.16 and claims for payment in the amount of \$19,122.29*

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**Water Account #765:** As was discussed during the work session the City will hold off on any action until next month to give the property owners an opportunity to take care of the situation.

## NEW BUSINESS

**RiverWalk Trail Agreement:** This agreement is between the City, Bigfork Valley Community Foundation, and Itasca County and makes official the monetary and ownership agreements that have already been committed to by the parties involved. *Motion by Francisco, seconded by Nei to approve the agreement, MCU.*

**Resolution 2015-03:** This resolution supports the grant application made to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for the RiverWalk Trail project. Storlie stated that along with approval of the resolution, Rural Community Coordinator Tim Johnson was asking for approval to amend the local contribution amount contained in the resolution prior to final submission of the grant application, if in fact that amount changes. *Motion by Storlie, seconded by Francisco to approve Resolution 2015-03 and to authorize Johnson to amend the final amount if needed, MCU.*

## OTHER:

**Training Requests:** Three training requests were received from City employees. Public Works Lead Joe Zimmer has requested to attend the Minnesota Rural Water Association Annual Water & Wastewater Conference, March 3-5 in St. Cloud. Public Works Assistant Aaron Gould has requested to attend the Minnesota Department of Health Northeast District Water Operators School, May 13-15 in Ely. City Clerk/Treasurer Angie Storlie has requested to attend the Minnesota Clerks and Finance Officers Association Annual Conference, March 17-20 in Red Wing. The requests include registration and travel costs, except for Storlie's hotel costs which will be covered by the MCFOA. *Motion by Johnson, seconded by Nei to approve all three requests, MCU.*

**Meeting Time Change:** The Council discussed making a permanent change to the monthly Council meeting time. *Motion by Johnson, seconded by Nei to set the monthly Council meetings for 7:15 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month, with a work session to precede each meeting starting at 7:00 p.m., MCU.*

*Motion to adjourn at 7:42 p.m. by Nei, seconded by Johnson, MCU.*

Angela L. Storlie  
City Clerk/Treasurer