

City of Bigfork

Work Session & Regular City Council Meeting
February 11, 2014
5:30 p.m.

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

Members Absent: none

Also Present: Tim Johnson

Mayor Amy Pifher called the work session to order at 5:30 p.m. Items discussed included the claims for approval, snow removal on main street and complaints received via email. Johnson requested that the Public Works Department employees each put the day of the week as well as the date on their timecards for ease of review.

Rural Community Coordinator Tim Johnson was present to answer questions regarding the Riverwalk Trail project. The Council members had previously inquired about the long-term costs to the City for maintenance of the project and Johnson provided copies of a 20-year maintenance estimate that had been compiled by the city engineer at the start of the project. Johnson reviewed that there is \$555,500 secured in funds for the trail construction in addition to about \$60,000 of in-kind contribution from Itasca County.

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

Also Present for Regular Meeting: Becky Passeri, Joe Zimmer, Tom David, Warren & Caroline Welch, Mark & JoAnn Krickhahn

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the public forum opened. JoAnn Krickhahn asked about parking in front of her business while the Kingdom Hall congregation is utilizing City Hall. Storlie was directed to ask Powell Auto if their back lot could be used by the Kingdom Hall in order to free up parking along Main Avenue.

As no one else wished to address the Council, the public forum was closed.

Changes to the agenda included: the addition of Resolution 2014-07 and complaints received via email under New Business, removal of the employee performance evaluation (will be done at the March meeting) and removal of the Riverwalk Trail update as this was covered in the work session. *Motion by Lane to accept the agenda with changes noted, 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 January 14 regular City Council meeting,*
- 2. City Clerk's office report for January 2014,*
- 3. Financial report for January 2014,*
- 4. Public Works Department report for January 2014,*
- 5. payroll and timecards for January 3, 17, and 31 in the amount of \$8,778.20,*

6. *claims paid in the amount of \$4,661.81 and claims for payment in the amount of \$23,508.86*

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Donation of Land to Fire Department: A final draft of the land donation agreement as discussed at the last meeting was provided. *Motion to approve the agreement for land donation to the Fire Department by Lane, seconded by Evensen, motion carried with Johnson and Evensen abstaining.*

Canister Site Property: Itasca County counter-offered with a proposal for a \$250 annual lease amount for the canister site property. *Motion to table this item by Evensen, seconded by Johnson, MCU.*

Motion by Lane to request that Itasca County donate the old hotel tax-forfeit property to the City, seconded by Evensen, MCU.

LMCIT Claim PC0014923: *Motion by Evensen to approve the insurance claim settlement received in the amount of \$16,316.46, seconded by Lane, MCU. Motion by Evensen to pursue further recovery of losses and direct the city clerk to provide any documentation requested by the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust or its attorneys relating to this claim, seconded by Lane, MCU.*

Personnel Policy Update: *Motion by Johnson to approve the updated personnel policy as presented, seconded by Nei, MCU.*

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2014-05: This resolution supports the application to the Local Trail Connections grant program for Riverwalk Trail. *Motion to approve Resolution 2014-05 by Lane, seconded by Evensen, MCU.*

Resolution 2014-06: This resolution supports the application to the Regional Trail grant program for Riverwalk Trail. *Motion to approve Resolution 2014-06 by Johnson, seconded by Lane, MCU.*

Resolution 2014-07: This resolution authorizes application to the IRRRB Commercial Redevelopment Grant Program. If awarded, this grant would provide for the demolition of the old telephone office building on Main Avenue. *Motion by Nei to approve Resolution 2014-07, seconded by Johnson, MCU.*

Ordinances 172, 173, 174 and Summary of Ordinance 172: A recommendation was received from the Planning & Zoning Commission that the Council adopt regulations relating to the sale and use of synthetic drugs. Ordinance 172 regulates the sale of synthetic drugs. *Motion to approve ordinance 172 by Johnson, seconded by Evensen, MCU.*

Ordinance 173 sets the license fee for a synthetic drug establishment at \$1,500 per year. *Motion to approve ordinance 173 by Evensen, seconded by Johnson, motion carried with Lane opposing.*

Ordinance 174 prohibits the consumption of products labeled not for human consumption. *Motion to approve ordinance 174 by Johnson, seconded by Lane, MCU.*

Motion to approve the summary for publication of ordinance 172 by Johnson, seconded by Lane, MCU.

Joe Zimmer – Streetlight Banners: Zimmer reported that we are down to 10 or 11 banners that are salvageable. He will get a price quote for the March meeting.

Clerk Training Request: *Motion by Johnson to approve training for the city clerk to include the MCFOA Annual Conference on March 18-21 and a CareerTrack seminar on April 15, seconded by Lane, MCU.*

OTHER:

Motion by Evensen to approve a vacation request from Zimmer for March 10-14, seconded by Johnson, MCU.

Pifher opened the public forum again. No one wished to speak.

Motion by Johnson to recess at 6:24 p.m. until City Attorney John Licke was present, seconded by Nei, MCU.

Pifher called the meeting back to order at 6:49 p.m. with City Attorney John Licke present. The Council reviewed several emails sent by former City Council member Howard McKinney regarding payment for his service as a Council member. Information compiled by Johnson from the Minnesota State Auditor and the IRS was also reviewed. Licke was asked to send Mr. McKinney a letter outlining the various laws that apply to the situation and requesting again that he provide his correct social security number to the City for payroll purposes. Johnson wanted to address a statement made in Mr. McKinney's emails that he believes the clerk and council have something against the Over 50 Club as they no longer receive a reduced utility rate. Johnson reviewed that discounted rates to the Club and area churches were discontinued in 2006 with an ordinance amendment and the ordinance has not been amended again since that time. Licke stated there was good reason for the City to charge the same rate to all users and Johnson stated there was no reason to revisit the ordinance at this time.

Motion to adjourn at 7:10 p.m. by Evensen seconded by Nei, MCU.

Angela L. Storlie
City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved at the regular meeting held on the
11th day of March, 2014

Mayor