

City of Bigfork  
Regular City Council Meeting  
December 19, 2023  
5:30 p.m.

Members Present: Bryan Boone, Sarah Scheff, Jerry Denny, Ben Maxa

Members Absent:

Also Present: Samantha Olson, Sally Sedgwick,

Mayor Boone called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Reverend Boone opened with a prayer.

The pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Public Forum was opened.

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

**Motion by Denny to approve the agenda, seconded by Scheff, motion carried unanimously (MCU).**

**Consent Agenda: Motion by Denny seconded by Scheff, and MCU to approve the consent agenda including:**

1. Minutes of the November 14, 2023, Regular City Council meeting,
2. City Clerk's office report for November 2023,
3. Financial report for November 2023,
4. Public Works Department Report for November 2023,
5. Payroll and timecards for November 10, 2023, and November 24, 2023, regular payrolls, in the amount of \$7,676.89.  
Fire Department and Council member annual pay, and employee paid time off payout in the amount of \$21,970.59
6. Claims paid from November 2023, in the amount of \$5,370.47 and claims for payment in the amount of \$47,694.17  
Fire Truck purchase \$158,769.00
7. Liquor License Renewal for Wilderness Bar for 2024
8. 2024 Fire Contracts

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Blandin Foundation Community Development Grant:** On Monday December 18<sup>th</sup>, Melissa met with Tim Johnson, Sue Meyers, Mike Olson, and Sandy LeBlanc-Boland, to discuss equipment for the riverwalk trail. Tim and Melissa between combined funds from BFVCF, the Blandin

Foundation Grant and money from Age to Age, were able to set a maximum budget for the equipment of \$13,000. \$5,000.00 of this is from the Blandin Foundation Grant. Melissa is waiting for Mike and Sue to pick out equipment and Melissa will get it ordered.

**2023 Audit: Miller McDonald Quote:** After reaching out to Miller McDonald, Jon Roscoe got back to Melissa with a quote for the audit for 2023. He quoted the City \$18,000 with an additional \$2,500.00 for the first-year audit fee. This quote is about \$6,000 less than what the city was previously paying CLA to perform the audit. **Motion to accept quote from Miller McDonald for the 2023 Audit in the amount of \$20,500.00 by Boone, seconded by Denny, MCU.**

**Water Issues on Spruce Street:** Stan Hunter called Melissa Monday requesting to be placed on the agenda. Stan did not attend the meeting to explain his situation to the Council. Melissa was able to update that after testing the water from his line for contaminants, Aaron got the results back saying there were no contaminants. Stan did express to Aaron that he was not happy with his water quality and did not think he should have to pay for city water and Culligan when he doesn't feel like he can drink the city's water. Bryan stated that since the water passed its testing and there are no contaminants, he should still have to pay for the water he is using. Ben agreed and said to table the item until Stan was able to speak his concern to the council.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**2024 Insurance Renewal Recap:** Kevin Hovila emailed a copy of the insurance renewal recap for 2024 for the Councils review.

**IUOE Local NO. 49 Contract Jan 1, 2024, through Dec 31, 2026:** A final contract was drawn up by Dan Manick the City's Union representative that reflected the changes to be made to the upcoming contract. Major changes included eligibility for benefits after hire from 6 months to 30 days, increase in amount of banked overtime for employees that wish to use compensatory pay, an increase in the amount the city pays for insurance on each employee from 72.5 % and increasing gradually within three years to 80%. The city also added an hourly pay increase of \$1.00 per employee each year and agreed to contribute an additional \$0.25 each year to the employees' Central Pension Plan per hour worked. After reviewing the changes that were made the council agreed that the contract reflected what they thought was best for the city and their employees. **Motion to approve IUOE Local NO. 49 Contract Jan 1, 2024, through Dec 31, 2026 by Scheff, seconded by Denny, and MCU.**

**Rink Attendant:** The city is looking for a skating rink attendant. Bryan does not have the time to flood the rink as he has in the past and would like the city to hire someone to flood the rink. Ben has suggested paying someone \$15.00 per hour to flood. Ben mentioned that the rink attendant pay being higher than the pay of the janitorial services at the hall is unfair and would like to revisit granting the cleaner a pay raise. Sarah stated that expecting someone to volunteer for the amount of work that it takes to tend to the rink seems unfair and agreed that \$15.00 per hour sounded like a good rate. **Motion to approve to pay rink attendant \$15.00 per hour to tend to the ice rink and posting an ad to advertise the City is hiring an attendant by Maxa, seconded by Scheff, and MCU.**

Ben asked to add Janitorial Position pay to the agenda for January.

**PTA: Banners for Senior Class of 2024:** Samantha Olson attended the meeting to ask permission for the PTA to hang banners in April until graduation that has a photo of each senior in the class of 2024. Bryan stated that he did not have any issues with that. Melissa said that Sam could contact NIEC to help them with hanging the Banners. The city council granted the PTA permission for the banners for each senior of the class of 2024.

**OTHER/ ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Next meeting is January 9, 2024, at 5:30 PM at Bigfork City Hall

Meeting Schedules for 2024 can be found on the black table by the check-in sheet.

**Motion to adjourn at 6:16 p.m. by Maxa, seconded by Denny and MCU.**

Melissa J. Grover

*City Clerk/Treasurer*

Approved at the regular meeting held on  
January 9, 2024

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Mayor