

City of Bigfork
Regular City Council Meeting
January 10, 2023
5:30 p.m.

Members Present: Bryan Boone, Paul Gustafson, Jerry Denny, Sarah Scheff
Members Absent: Ben Maxa
Also Present: Warren Welch, Caleb Strandlie, Gus David, Marilyn David, Gary Erickson,
Matt Stone, Sarah Stone, Evelyn Stone, Josiah Stone, Aaron Gould

Mayor Boone called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Oath of Office was recited by newly elected officials.

Reverend Boone opened with a prayer.

The pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Public Forum was opened.

Sarah Stone addressed the Council representing EOWSki to talk about grooming the Riverwalk trail to use for the ski club. They do have funding for 50% to pay for equipment necessary to groom the trail. Sarah is asking the Council to talk about donating money to EOWSki to help purchase a snowmobile and grooming device for the trail. This would open up the trail to multiuse for the community. Bryan Boone asked about trail location options apart from the Riverwalk trail as he is concerned about the integrity of the paved walkway, and he wants to know more about the money needed, and what they want exactly from the City Council in terms of trail management. Aaron Gould presented the idea of making the trail on the shoulder of the walk trail as there is plenty of room for a trail. Paul asked them about the use of the School Forest Trail. Sarah Stone will come back to another meeting with written proposal for this project.

Gus David addressed the Council regarding the snow being piled up on his property near the river. He is worried about the water run off come springtime and it being his responsibility if the State gets involved. Bryan stated that we are currently in conversation with MNDot regarding the snow removal because they are supposed to be removing it so that this does not happen. Bryan Boone asked me to look into the legalities of the city putting snow on his property and stated he would contact MNDot about the snow removal agreement as they have only removed the snow from main street once during this winter season.

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

Move City Hall Rental Proposal to after Resolution 2023-01. Motion by Gustafson to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Scheff, motion carried unanimously (MCU).

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

1. Minutes of the December 13, 2022, Regular City Council meeting
2. City Clerk's office report for December 2022,
3. Financial report for December 2022,
4. Public Works Department Report for December 2022
5. Payroll and timecards for December 9, 2022, and December 23, 2022, regular payrolls, in the amount of \$7,932.19
6. Claims paid in November in the amount of \$10,145.95 and claims for payment in the amount of \$84,284.97.
7. Resolution 2023-02: Designating Polling Place Location for 2023
8. Resolution 2023-03: Authorizing Automated Clearing House bank payments for 2023.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Update on Projects from WiDseth: Larry Vanhout from WiDseth called in to the meeting via telephone as Microsoft Teams was not working. Caleb Strandlie also attended the meeting in person to help with the update and provided handouts to the city council members of the Confirmation of Request for Engineering Services. Larry summarized the ongoing project to the new council members. The description of the work involved in the confirmation for engineering services is as follows: Prepare Preliminary Engineering Report for a water system study in accordance with Rural Development requirements. Prepare Environmental Report in accordance with Rural Development requirements. Approval of these Reports allows WiDseth to determine all the water and sewer needs for improvements which will allow us to have more funding available. Bryan asked if there was a ballpark of funds that the city will be responsible for. Larry stated that rural development has found that based off the median household income the city would be responsible for 1.5% of the project costs. **Motion to Approve the Request for Engineering Services from WiDseth for Water System Study and Funding Applications by Gustafson, seconded by Denny, MCU.**

Caleb also addressed the Council regarding the Trestle Bridge and the Walk Trail Bridge Inspections. The quote that was signed and return had a line stating the inspection would happen within 6 weeks of receiving the signed quote. Caleb said they have not yet inspected the bridges due to the snow and asked the Council if they want the inspection to happen now or in the Spring when the snow and ice is gone. Bryan told Caleb that whenever they can be available to inspect it would be great and that it may be easier to do the inspections now while there is ice on the river so that they can get underneath the bridge to look at the structural integrity. Caleb said he would talk with his superiors and try to get a date to do the inspection scheduled.

Blandin Foundation Community Development Grant Fishing Pier Costs: Kacie Stanek from the DNR office in Grand Rapids provided Melissa with a rough estimate of the costs of the fishing pier for the Councils review. Kacie stated that it would be best to contact a contractor about

getting a more detailed quote. But she did state that the more permanent structures would cost \$30,000- \$50,000 and the decks would cost around \$50,000-\$100,000. Bryan stated that we should wait to see how the ice goes out this spring and decide which pier would work best, and then start contacting contractors for prices.

Resolution 2023-01: Appointments: New Member for Budget Committee & Acting Mayor needed: Bryan suggested Paul Gustafson as the acting mayor. Paul said he would do it. Sarah Scheff volunteered to be on the budget committee. **Motion to approve Resolution 2023-01 Appointments by Gustafson, seconded by Scheff, MCU.**

City Hall Rental Proposal: Mayor Boone stepped away from his mayoral seat and turned it over to Paul Gustafson. As a church, the Assembly of God is asking to hold services and rent the City Hall on Sunday mornings. They would pay \$50/week which would amount to \$2,600/year. They understand that the City Hall is a community facility and would be flexible with other members of the community that may want to rent the Hall on a Sunday as long as they were given a notice and time to move the service to another area. They also mentioned purchasing items such as larger TVs for the Council Chambers, and new folding tables to replace the large round tables as a donation to the city. Gustafson asked Melissa about the legalities of this. Melissa stated that in researching she said there are no Minnesota State Statutes that stat they cannot rent to a religious group, however if you say yes to one group you cannot deny another group use of the facilities. Denny stated that the more use the Hall gets the better as it is bringing in more money for the City Hall. Melissa also presented the idea of doing a 6-month trial run of this and readdressing the proposal in June of 2023. **Motion to accept the City Hall Rental Proposal on a 6-month trial run by Scheff, seconded by Denny, MCU.**

NEW BUSINESS

Donation Request from Bigfork Valley Community Foundation: Bigfork Valley Community Foundation has sent the City of Bigfork a request for donation. Boone asked Melissa to look into the city being able to donate to a community foundation. Tabled until Feb 21, 2023, meeting.

Water/Sewer Adjustment Policy: The Council reviewed the document. Bryan asked Melissa to add something regarding waiving late fees should the community member inform the Clerk that the bill will be paid late. The Council asked Melissa to add this and tabled the item until the Feb 21, 2023, meeting.

Airport Runway De-icing: Over the last couple of weeks the airport has been closed due the runway being iced up. Paul Gustafson called the Grand Rapids airport about having them come up with their sprayer truck to spray a chemical on the runway that will de-ice it. The cost estimate they gave was \$5,500.00. MN Dot aeronautics will reimburse 85% of any of the costs at the airport so the city would be paying after reimbursement around \$800. **Motion to approve the Grand Rapids Airport Employees to spray the runway as needed to deice the runway by Gustafson, seconded by Scheff, MCU.**

Motion to allow the Public Works Manager to make decisions regarding the Airport Runway Clearing and De-icing by Scheff, seconded by Gustafson, MCU.

OTHER/ ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next City Council Meeting is February 21, 2023, at 5:30PM.

March City Council Meeting to be rescheduled to March 21, 2023, 5:30 PM

Motion to adjourn at 7:05 p.m. by Gustafson, seconded by Denny, and MCU.

Melissa J. Grover

City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved at the regular meeting held on
February 21, 2023

Mayor