

City of Bigfork
Regular City Council Meeting
January 9, 2020
5:30 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Bryan Boone, Paul Gustafson, David Mann, and Ben Maxa

Members Absent: Andrew Francisco and Junior Council Members Hannah Johnson and James Rauzi

Also Present: Shannon Sweeney, Joe Sutherland, Mike & Darla Kocian, Shea Wanner, Sally & Dean Sedgewick, John Thomas, Tim & Anne Collins, Dean Selander, Bruce Gerth, Terry Snyder, Eric Villeneuve, Gary Erickson, Joe Sutherland, Misty Olson, James Parks, Rouge Maxa and Ezra Mann

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the public forum was opened. As no one wished to address the Council, the public forum was closed.

Motion by Mann to approve the agenda, seconded by Gustafson, motion carried unanimously (MCU).

Consent Agenda: Motion by Mann, seconded by Gustafson and carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda including:

- 1. minutes of the December 12 regular City Council meeting,***
- 2. City Clerk's office report for December 2019,***
- 3. financial report for December 2019,***
- 4. Public Works Department report for December 2019,***
- 5. payroll and timecards for December 13 and 27 regular, December 27 vacation pay-out and December 31 annual payrolls in the amount of \$16,650.40***
- 6. claims paid in the amount of \$74,350.86 and claims for payment in the amount of \$86,482.71***
- 7. approval of the summary of ordinance #189 for publication***
- 8. approval of the transfer of \$1,756.56 from the City Hall Restoration Fund to the General Fund as of 12/31/19 and to close the City Hall Restoration Fund effective the same date***

Public Hearing on Sewer Rates: Boone presented three options for a sewer rate increase necessary to fund the replacement of a lift station. The Council determined at their last meeting that they would not take out a bond for the project in order to save the interest and bond fee costs. The three options presented utilize the sewer fund balance to pay for the project with a rate increase to replenish the fund over a varying number of years. Comments received prior to and at the meeting from residents indicated a desire to keep any rate increase as low as possible and for the Council to adopt a policy for similar situations in the future.

Public Hearing on Tax Abatement Bond Issuance: Shannon Sweeny of David Drown Associates was present to answer questions on the issuance of a tax abatement bond for the 2020 Road Improvement Project. He reviewed that a grant of \$680,000 was received from MnDOT and the City would be bonding for the remaining \$190,000 in project costs. This bond will require a tax levy of around \$16,000 per year. The Council has reviewed the budget and anticipates needing to increase the total tax levy only about \$6,000 per year with the remaining \$10,000 being reallocated from other budget areas.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Resolution 2020-03: This resolution approves the use of property tax abatement for the 2020 Road Improvement Project. *Motion by Maxa, seconded by Gustafson to adopt Resolution 2020-03, MCU.*

Resolution 2020-04: This resolution authorizes the issuance of a general obligation tax abatement bond for the 2020 Road Improvement Project. *Motion by Maxa, seconded by Gustafson to adopt Resolution 2020-04, MCU.*

Ordinance #190: Based on discussion during the public hearing and comments received prior to the meeting, the Council determined that sewer rates would be raised \$1.00 per month for those services with a 5/8" or 3/4" line, \$3.00 per month for those services with a 1" or 1.5" service line, and \$5 per month for 2" and 4" services lines. Ordinance #190 sets the base sewer rates with these increases. *Motion to adopt ordinance #190 by Mann, seconded by Maxa, MCU.*

Scenic Estate TIF District Update: The Clerk reported that legal and financial counsel have been sought and a determination has been made as to which parcels within the Scenic Estates Development should not be included in the TIF district. As it was the Council's desire to avoid having the developer front the money for re-payment, a schedule has been prepared that would allow an interfund loan with payback to occur throughout the remaining years of the TIF. Developer Mike Kocian was present and stated that he felt this was an acceptable resolution. *Motion by Mann to use an interfund loan to correct the overpayment issue in the Scenic Estates TIF district, seconded by Gustafson, MCU.*

Resolutions will be on the February agenda to formally approve the necessary changes to the TIF district and the use of an interfund loan.

NEW BUSINESS

County Commissioner Terry Snyder – Bigfork Ambulance Service Update: Commissioner Snyder and Eric Villeneuve were present to make the Council aware of the struggles of the Bigfork Ambulance Service to fill their roster of members, particularly with EMTs that can cover daytime hours. Snyder emphasized that ambulance service is important to the residents as well as to the hospital and Itasca County is committed to ensuring we have this coverage. The County has met with ambulance and hospital personnel and all are working together on a solution. Snyder will keep the Council informed.

Resolution 2020-01: This resolution sets the various appointments for 2020. Mann volunteered for the Budget Committee. *With that addition, motion by Boone, seconded by Mann to adopt Resolution 2020-01, MCU.*

Resolution 2020-02: This resolution authorizes the use of ACH transactions. *Motion by Mann, seconded by Gustafson to approve Resolution 2020-02, MCU.*

2020 Meeting Schedule: The 2020 schedule of Planning Commission and City Council meetings was provided. Of note is the May Council meeting which is set for Thursday, May 7 at 9:30 a.m. at the Edge Center. *Motion by Boone to adopt the 2020 meeting schedule, seconded by Maxa, MCU.*

Motion to adjourn by Mann at 6:52 p.m., seconded by Maxa, MCU.

Angela L. Storlie
City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved at the regular meeting held on
February 13, 2020

Mayor