

City of Bigfork
Regular City Council Meeting
November 12, 2020
5:30 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Bryan Boone, David Mann, and Paul Gustafson
Via Zoom: Ben Maxa and Drew Francisco

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Tamara Lowney and Eric Storlie
Via Zoom: Laura Connelly and Sally Sedgwick

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.

Mayor Boone added the following items to the agenda: Hwy 38 Property Bids, Property North of Softball Field, and Short Term/Vacation Rentals. ***Motion by Gustafson to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Mann, 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 October 8, 2020 regular and November 4, 2020 emergency City Council meetings,***
- 2. City Clerk's office report for October 2020,***
- 3. financial report for October 2020,***
- 4. Public Works Department report for October 2020,***
- 5. payroll and timecards for October 16 and 30 regular payrolls in the amount of \$8,149.85***
- 6. claims paid in the amount of \$12,014.50 and claims for payment in the amount of \$35,115.01***
- 7. Resolution 2020-19 Allocating Remaining CARES funds***
- 8. Resolution 2020-20 LRIP Grant Agreement (updated amount)***

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Resolution 2020-15 – Itasca Waters Commitment: This Resolution was tabled at the October meeting due to concerns about tying the City to future lobbying or other legislative actions that might not be in line with the City's values. Councilman Mann re-drafted the Resolution to make it specific to the City of Bigfork and to remove any emphasis on lawmakers/policy revisions. Laura Connelly expressed that the purpose of the project is to increase public awareness of the need to

protect our abundant clean water and there was no political or financial aspect to it. ***Motion by Maxa, seconded by Francisco to adopt Resolution 2020-15 as redrafted by Councilman Mann, MCU.***

Public Hearing on Minnesota Investment Fund Application: Tamara Lowney with Itasca Economic Development Corporation provided a review of her work with Anderson Fabrics, Inc. on their potential expansion into the e2ip facility. The City has committed a total of \$11,000 in cash and discount incentives and has supported an application to the Job Creation Fund. IEDC is now working on an application to the Minnesota Investment Fund which would provide Anderson Fabrics with a \$150,000 forgivable loan for equipment. The City would be the applicant and pass through the funds to Anderson Fabrics. There is no financial risk to City with this application. As no one wished to address the Council on this issue, Boone closed the public hearing.

Resolution 2020-18 – Minnesota Investment Fund: *Motion by Mann, seconded by Gustafson to adopt Resolution 2020-18 in support of an application to the Minnesota Investment Fund, MCU.*

Boone noted that he would be attending an Itasca County public hearing next week in support of the County offering tax abatement benefits to Anderson Fabrics.

Airport Hunting and Personal Storage Policies: Airport hunting regulations have been discussed at the prior two regular Council meetings. These policies reflect the discussions at those meetings as well as further discussion between the Mayor and staff. ***Motion to adopt the Airport Hunting policy by Gustafson, seconded by Mann, MCU. Motion to adopt the Airport Personal Storage policy by Mann, seconded by Gustafson, MCU.***

Hwy 38 Property Bids: No bids were received on the property put up for sale at the September meeting. The Council determined they would readvertise with a minimum bid of \$20,000 for the next month.

NEW BUSINESS

Canvass of 2020 General Election Results: The following results for the City of Bigfork 2020 General Election were received from Itasca County:

There were 219 registered voters on election day with 6 new registrants on election day. 189 ballots were cast for an 84% voter turn-out.

For the office of Mayor, Bryan Boone received 99 votes and Amy Pifher received 73 votes. Bryan Boone is the winner of that seat. For the two offices of Council Member, Paul Gustafson received 126 votes and Ben Maxa received 122 votes. They are each a winner of one of those seats. ***Motion to approve the 2020 election results by Mann, seconded by Gustafson, MCU.***

Council Pay Increase: Boone explained that Council pay is set by ordinance and does not take effect until after the next general election. Had he not been elected in 2020, he was considering voting to increase the pay, however since he was elected, he does not feel right in doing it now. This item will be tabled until the November 2022 meeting.

Recreation Coordinator Position: Boone explained that the Budget Committee planned for this new position in 2021 with the hope of eventually making it a self-sustaining position through event revenue and perhaps grants. The position would plan, market, and manage various recreation and community events throughout the year. The Clerk drafted a job description for review. With the state of the COVID-19 pandemic, Boone suggested that the job description be worked on but the position not be posted until a time when events can safely be held. Councilmembers offered several suggestions for changes to the job description.

Motion Picture Licensing: This license would allow the City to show movies at City Hall to the public. This license would be used by the Recreation Coordinator Position as one of the options for community events. ***Motion by Boone to purchase the license when the COVID-19 pandemic is under control enough to allow for large community events again, seconded by Gustafson, MCU.***

Property North of the Softball Field: The adjoining property owner to the softball field site has offered the City approximately 9 acres of land for a cost of \$22,500. Boone noted that while it would be an advantage to have an expanded site and this property has electricity to it, the City does not have the funds to purchase it. No action was taken.

OTHER/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Short Term/Vacation Rentals: Boone noted that Itasca County is working on legislation related to short-term/vacation rentals and that the Council should consider adopting something similar.

Boone acknowledged the Itasca County Proclamation regarding National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Month.

The Clerk provided a report of visitors to the Wannigan in 2020.

The Council received a thank you from Creek Bank Printing for the COVID-19 Small Business Relief Grant.

Mann thanked Gustafson for his summer work and for staying on when a fill-in was needed.

Motion to adjourn by Mann at 6:45 p.m., seconded by Gustafson, MCU.

Angela L. Storlie
City Clerk/Treasurer