

City of Bigfork
Regular City Council Meeting
November 14, 2023
5:30 p.m.

Members Present: Bryan Boone, Sarah Scheff, Jerry Denny
Members Absent: Ben Maxa
Also Present: Aaron Gould, Tara Urman, Samantha Olson, Caleb Strandlie, Sally Sedgwick, Gretchen Gerin

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

Reverend Boone opened with a prayer.

The pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Public Forum was opened.

Tara Urman and Samantha Olson attended the public forum to discuss building an outdoor horse arena by the newly constructed baseball field. This arena would allow kids in the area and other families to work with their livestock and introduce livestock to the community. Samantha also mentioned that this arena could introduce the elderly members in the community to horses as well. 4-H would also be able to use this arena to prepare for their shows and have their meetings. Tara mentioned that the 4-h and saddle clubs along with many in the community that she has spoken to, would be interested in maintaining the arena. Bryan stated that in order to do a project such as this would require a plan be put together by Tara and Samantha that would draw out exactly what they are looking at, along with a cost estimate, and plan for attaining the funds. Samantha gave a rough estimate of around \$10,000-\$15,000 for the groundwork, panel placement and a storage shed. Samantha mentioned fund raising, asking for donations, and applying for grants to help fund the project. The size of the arena would be about 2 skating rinks.

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

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

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

- 1. Minutes of the October 16, 2023, Regular City Council meeting,**
- 2. City Clerk's office report for October 2023,**
- 3. Financial report for October 2023,**
- 4. Public Works Department Report for October 2023,**

5. Payroll and timecards for October 13, 2023, and October 27, 2023, regular payrolls, in the amount of \$8,314.02
Special Payroll for Council member Kristi Gustafson annual pay in the amount of \$831.15
6. Claims paid from October 2023, in the amount of \$6,346.59 and claims for payment in the amount of \$89,256.44
7. To not waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by Minn. Stat. 466.04.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Blandin Foundation Community Development Grant: Benches, Canoe Landing, City Beach: After the approved expenditures at last month's meeting, the City still has approximately \$13,000.00 in the Blandin Foundation Community Development Grant Fund. Melissa is waiting to hear back from the Balsam store on a quote for a roll out dock at the beach. The remaining \$13,000.00 will be used to purchase a new dock for the City beach, with plans to sell the old dock.

WiDseth: Caleb Strandlie from WiDSETH attended to give an update on the PER report for the City. This evaluates our current infrastructure and shows a need and financial capabilities of the City. This PER report will allow WiDSETH to figure out a funding plan for the Water Tower/Water Main project along with putting a full scope together of the Water Treatment plant, the water tower, water mains by division, cedar, and vine Ave, and any other infrastructure needs that present themselves. Caleb has been working behind the scenes with Aaron and Melissa to figure out what needs there are along with mapping the current water mains. Caleb is hoping to have a final draft to present to the city by January or February. Caleb's goal is to do this all as one large project, rather than multiple different projects. Caleb is hopeful that because the median household income for the City of Bigfork is only around \$28,000.00 that will open the City up to more funding opportunities. Caleb also stated that once they finish the report, they will have to put together an environmental report as well which could take a little bit of time being we are located in northern Minnesota.

NEW BUSINESS

Trading Old Bobcat for Attachments: The City of Bigfork has had the old bobcat at Bemidji Bobcat on consignment since May. After sitting there for months with no interested parties, Aaron contacted Bemidji Bobcat regarding trading the bobcat for attachments. They have quoted the bobcat at \$25,000.00. Aaron has been quoted \$22,177.43 for 3 different attachments. A 96" snow v-blade, an 84" sweeper bucket, and an 80" brushcat. Bemidji Bobcat would then give us the remaining balance as a check. **Motion to approve trading the old bobcat for the three attachments by Scheff, seconded by Denny, and MCU.**

Arvig: Construction Consent Form & E911 Address request for airport: Arvig is looking to update to Fiber optic cable at the airport weather station and they need consent from the city to do this. **Motion to approve the Arvig Construction Consent Form by Denny, seconded by Scheff, and MCU.**

While trying to Gopher State One Call at the weather it was realized by Arvig that the weather station does not have currently have a physical address. They asked us to consider applying for a physical address in cases of emergency. For instance if someone working out there had a medical emergency, there is not a current address to give. **Motion to approve filing for an E911 Address with Itasca County for the Weather Station at the airport by Scheff, and seconded by Denny, and MCU.**

2023 Audit: Waiting on Quote from Miller McDonald: CLA our previous auditors called Melissa and informed her that they would no longer be able to perform our annual audit due to understaffing within their firm. Melissa has reached out to 8 different auditors for quotes. 3 have responded saying they are also understaffed at this time. Miller McDonald is currently going over last year's audit report to determine if it is something they can take on at this time. Miller McDonald will send a quote over to Melissa if they feel confident in being able to perform our audit. In the meantime, Melissa will continue to reach out to other auditing firms for quotes.

OTHER/ ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next meeting is December 12, 2023, at 5:30 PM at Bigfork City Hall

Bigfork Community and Fitness Center had its ribbon cutting on October 30th. We are still waiting to hear from the State and ISD 318 regarding the \$1.5 million bond.

Motion to adjourn at 6:14 p.m. by Denny, seconded by Scheff, and MCU.

Melissa J. Grover

City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved at the regular meeting held on
December 12, 2023

Mayor