

City of Bigfork
Regular City Council Meeting
October 10, 2019
5:30 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Bryan Boone, David Mann, Drew Francisco, Paul Gustafson and Junior Councilmember Hannah Johnson

Members Absent: Ben Maxa and Junior Councilmember James Rauzi

Also Present: Joe Zimmer, Gary Erickson, Sally Sedgewick and Lynn Eaton

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.

Continuation of temporary public works position was replaced with skating rink snow removal on the agenda. Opening Council meetings in prayer and Complete Count Committee were added to the agenda. ***Motion by Francisco to approve agenda as amended, 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 September 12 regular City Council meeting,***
- 2. City Clerk's office report for September 2019,***
- 3. financial report for September 2019,***
- 4. Public Works Department report for September 2019,***
- 5. payroll and timecards for September 6 & 20 and October 4 regular payrolls in the amount of \$12,125.18***
- 6. claims paid in the amount of \$8,774.19 and claims for payment in the amount of \$13,546.90***
- 7. approval of the summary of Ordinance #188 for publication***

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

WSN - Ash Street Lift Station: Lynn Eaton from Widseth Smith Nolting reported that bids were opened on Tuesday for the Ash Street Lift Station replacement project. Three bids were received. ***Motion to award the bid to the low bidder, Utility Systems of America, in the amount of \$71,132.00 by Boone, seconded by Francisco, MCU.***

Request to County for Speed Limit Reduction on CSAH 7: Boone reported that he spoke with County Commissioner Terry Snyder and was encouraged to send a letter to the Itasca County Highway Department formally requesting a speed reduction on Scenic Hwy 7 within city limits to ensure that action on the speed study and signage continues to move forward.

Motion to request Itasca County to reduce the speed limit on Scenic Hwy 7 within City limits by Mann, seconded by Gustafson, MCU. The Clerk will send a letter conveying this request.

NEW BUSINESS

Acknowledgement of Itasca County Proclamation – National Homelessness and Hunger Awareness Month: The Council acknowledged Itasca County’s proclamation to designate November 2019 as Itasca County Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Month and November 16-24 as Itasca County Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week.

RiverWalk Trail Fitness Stations: A memo from Rural Community Coordinator Tim Johnson was received regarding a request for fitness stations along RiverWalk Trail. Limited funds are available for this. Boone noted that it would be helpful to designate Trail Administrators to deal with trail use and other day-to-day management issues. Major decisions would be brought to the Council. ***Motion by Mann, seconded by Gustafson to appoint City Clerk Angie Storlie and Rural Community Coordinator Tim Johnson as Trail Administrators, MCU.***

The Council discussed potential placement of fitness stations along the trail and how to avoid detracting from the beauty and nature of the trail. Signage and promotion of the stations was also discussed. ***Motion by Francisco, seconded by Gustafson to authorize the addition of fitness stations along RiverWalk trail with the stipulation that Councilman Mann work with Johnson and the Clerk on placement, MCU.***

Sick Time Donation Policy: A proposed amendment to the personnel policy was presented which would allow employees to donate sick time to other employees. ***Motion by Gustafson, seconded by Mann to approve the amendment as presented, MCU.*** The amendment will be forwarded to the union for their approval.

Snow Removal at Skating Rink: Boone stated that he will be unable to complete snow removal at the skating rink this winter. It was the consensus of the Council to advertise for bids for this work, specifying the ice should be cleared of snow within 12 hours of each snowfall. Boone will continue to do the flooding.

Opioid Forum and Make it OK: Boone reported there will be a community forum on substance use on Thursday, October 24 at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall. He encouraged everyone to attend. He also reported that “Make it OK Day” is tomorrow, Friday, October 11. Everyone is encouraged to wear green in recognition of mental health issues and the need to reduce the stigma surrounding them.

Boone has recently been certified as a Mental Health First Aid trainer. He will be offering an 8-hour course designed to help the average person identify and offer first line help to someone experiencing mental health issues or substance use disorders. He requested that the City Council authorize city employees to attend this important training. ***Motion by Boone to allow full time City employees to take this course, seconded by Mann, MCU.*** Any interested Council member will also be able to attend.

Opening Meetings with Prayer: Boone inquired of City Attorney John Dimich about opening City Council meetings with prayer. Dimich’s response was the Council may open their meeting with

prayer if the prayer is secular in nature and does not promote or prohibit religion but is akin to establishing a solemn and serious tone for the meeting. There must be no excessive entanglement with religion. Potential conflicts were discussed and it was the consensus of the Council to ask for any objections prior to anyone offering a prayer at the start of any Council meeting.

Complete Count Committee: Boone reported on a meeting he had with a representative from the US Census Bureau. Itasca County has typically been a low-response area. Boone was approached to form a Complete Count Committee which he felt would be a good role for the Northern Itasca Joint Powers Board to fill. Boone will work with Rural Community Coordinator Tim Johnson to establish this committee.

OTHER

The Council received a report of wannigan visitors over the past year.

The City website has been updated by Rural Community Coordinator Tim Johnson.

The housing study will be completed in November.

Public Works Superintendent Joe Zimmer thanked Paul Gustafson for all his hard work as the seasonal public works employee.

Motion to adjourn by Mann at 6:23 p.m., seconded by Francisco, MCU.

Angela L. Storlie
City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved at the regular meeting held on
November 14, 2019

Mayor