

City of Bigfork
Regular City Council Meeting
September 10, 2020
5:30 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Bryan Boone, Drew Francisco, David Mann, and Paul Gustafson

Members Absent: Ben Maxa

Also Present: Sally Sedgewick

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. Sedgewick noted that no one from the City of Bigfork filed for the City hospital board seat and encouraged anyone interested to run as a write-in.

Resolution 2020-15 was removed from the agenda and postponed until October.

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

- 1. minutes of the August 13, 2020 regular City Council meeting,***
- 2. City Clerk's office report for August 2020,***
- 3. financial report for August 2020,***
- 4. Public Works Department report for August 2020,***
- 5. payroll and timecards for August 21 and Sept 4 regular payrolls in the amount of \$6,158.12***
- 6. claims paid in the amount of \$4,995.01 and claims for payment in the amount of \$54,506.23***
- 7. Resolution 2020-14 Joint Powers Agreement with the State of Minnesota on behalf of City Attorney***

Results of August 13, 2020 Closed Meeting: Mayor Boone reported that a closed session was held on August 13, 2020 for the purpose of conducting annual employee performance evaluations.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Engineering Update: Information was received from Widseth reporting that plans for the Ash Street/Rajala Mill Road project had been completed two weeks ago and submitted to both the State and County. State review typically takes two weeks so approval from them should come any day. Widseth would like to bid and award the project this Fall with construction in the Spring.

They are seeing good bid results right now as contractors are anxious to line up work for next year.

CARES Act Funding Consideration: The League of Minnesota Cities has advised that a contribution to a school is not an eligible CARES Act expenditure. It was the consensus of the Council to offer another \$500 water/sewer credit to local small businesses, then split any remaining funds between the Bigfork Ambulance Service and local Meals on Wheels.

Motion to approve resolution 2020-16 by Mann, seconded by Gustafson, MCU.

Review of Softball Field Project: As directed at a prior meeting the Clerk reviewed information on use of the school field and found that there are barriers which make it likely a City field would be well-utilized. The Public Works Department has been doing site work and is looking into the purchase of material for the infield. They are working with potential volunteers on backstop, fence, and bleacher installation. They hope to have the field in playable condition this Fall, weather permitting. The Council will need to discuss plans for funding and future construction of dugouts and a concession facility.

Designation of Returned TIF Funds: The City received \$26,268.72 in returned TIF funds due to the removal of parcels from the Scenic Estates TIF District. Potential uses for these funds include security cameras and an audio set-up for City Hall. The Clerk was asked to obtain updated quotes for both of those items for the October meeting. It was the consensus of the Council to transfer the unused portion of these funds to the General Investment Fund.

RiverWalk Trail Note: A letter was received from a Bigfork resident expressing frustration by plans to improve the trail by the addition of manmade structures that they felt would take away the natural beauty of the trail. Boone noted his recollection was that the proposed exercise equipment would be placed in such a way as to not be “littering” the landscape of the trail. Rural Community Coordinator Tim Johnson is working with a group of interested individuals and the Bigfork Valley Community Foundation to ensure the best placement for these enhancements while maintaining the “wilderness” effect of the trail.

NEW BUSINESS

2021-2023 Union Contract: Mayor Boone and Councilman Maxa met with the Union to negotiate terms for the 2021-2023 union contract. Boone reported on the proposed updates to the agreement. ***Motion by Mann to approve the agreement, seconded by Gustafson, MCU.***

Airport No Hunting Request: A request was received from a landowner bordering the airport for the City to close the airport property to hunting, stating concerns with trespassing and safety. The consensus of the Council was to continue to allow hunting as it controls the deer population and lessens the risk of deer vs. airplane encounters, but to post signs requiring anyone wishing to hunt on the public property to register with the City. A map will be provided to all registrants. A policy will be drafted to this effect.

Review of City-owned Property: Councilman Gustafson had inquired about City-owned property that is not being utilized. The Clerk provided a map, size and value information on each

such parcel. It was the consensus of the Council to advertise three of these parcels for sale on sealed bid. Two of the parcels are located on the north shore of the Big Fork River off of E Ottum Ave and will be posted for a minimum bid of \$1,000 per acre. The third parcel is located north on State Hwy 38 and will be posted for a minimum bid of \$30,000. Another City-owned property encompasses a portion of North Itasca Electric's parking lot. The Clerk was instructed to contact NIEC to see if they were amenable to purchasing this lot. The owner of the parcel north of the softball field site has asked if the City is interested in purchasing his property. The Council was of the consensus that they were not interested unless the property was available for a very low amount.

Motion to adjourn by Francisco at 6:39 p.m., seconded by Mann, MCU.

Angela L. Storlie
City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved at the regular meeting held on
October 8, 2020

Mayor