

City of Bigfork
Regular City Council Meeting
April 11, 2023
5:30 p.m.

Members Present: Bryan Boone, Paul Gustafson, Jerry Denny, Ben Maxa
Members Absent: Sarah Scheff
Also Present: Caleb Strandlie, Sally Sedgwick, Gary Erickson

Mayor Boone called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Reverend Boone opened with a prayer.

The pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Public Forum was opened.

Gary Erickson addressed the City Council regarding Paul Gustafson's time on the Council and suggested to the council naming one of the creeks that runs from the Bigfork River under Ottum Ave, and between the churches north of town crossing HWY 38, Gustafson creek as the creek runs through the Gustafson's family property. Bryan Boone asked if Gary was willing to do some research to see if he can determine if the creek has a name already and what the steps would be to rename it.

Gary Erickson also addressed the council to ask about how the city is planning to pay for the infrastructure that is going in through the city including the water tower and the water mains. He also asked the city to look at paying for this through revenues as he had originally thought the city was looking at funding this project with MN State GO BONDING. He said that the city should look at the costs of water and sewer rates being increased for these projects. Bryan Boone responded saying that the City has been giving incremental increases each year that are minimal to counter these costs. Boone also said that the City has paired up with WiDseth to go over our financials for the water and sewer infrastructure. This will allow them to find funding for paying for these projects that are also based on the city's tax per household by looking into Rural Development. As of right now the plan to pay for this project is to look at funding with Rural Development and not GO BONDING, the GO BONDING that Gary was referring to is for the School Project.

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

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

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

1. Minutes of the March 21, 2023, Regular City Council meeting, and Minutes of the March 30, 2023, Special Council meeting,
2. City Clerk's office report for March 2023,
3. Financial report for March 2023,
4. Public Works Department Report for March 2023,
5. Payroll and timecards for March 31, 2023, regular payroll, in the amount of \$4,684.77,
6. Claims paid from March 22- April 6, 2023, in the amount of \$ and claims for payment in the amount of \$41,579.88

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

WiDseth Sewer Lift Station Golf Course Rd: Quotes: WiDseth and the City of Bigfork received quotes from 2 contractors: Jeffrey Powell Excavating and TNT Construction.

The quote from Jeffrey Powell Excavating came in at \$60,800.00

The quote from TNT came in at \$92,800.00

Moving forward Caleb would recommend that the City reward the project to Jeff Powell Excavating since they are local and are significantly lower in their estimate compared to TNT. In a few weeks after the contractor accepts the job Caleb will conduct a prework meeting prior to starting the project. \$51,877 was awarded to the City through WiDseth from IRRB to help pay for the project, these funds will be used to help offset the cost of the lift station with Minnesota Pump Works that was approximately \$16,700.00 that the city has paid for already. It was decided by WiDseth to have the city purchase this unit and then be reimbursed because the City got a better rate for the station and is tax exempt. July 1st is the deadline for the project to be completed so that the County can start their project at the end of July. **Motion to approve the quote received from Jeffrey Powell Excavating of \$60,800.00 for the Sewer Lift Station Project on Golf Course Lane by Maxa, seconded by Gustafson, and MCU.**

Caleb also followed up on the Trestle and Walk Bridge Project and is hoping to get the report from Kent on the bridge inspection soon to send to the City for review.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2023-07: A Resolution for Supporting and Applying for State of Minnesota General Obligation Bonding for the Bigfork Community & School Project: This is a follow up from the Special council meeting that was held on March 30, 2023. The motion from that meeting was to move forward with the understanding that the City would be willing to take on ownership of the School Project. This Resolution is to show that the City is moving forward with their commitment to ISD 318. **Motion by Gustafson to adopt Resolution 2023-07: A Resolution for Supporting and Applying for State of Minnesota General Obligation Bonding for the Bigfork Community & School Project, seconded by Maxa, all voting in favor, and MCU.**

Boone had mentioned forming a committee to serve as points of contacts for the project moving forward so that nothing is held up while working out the lease agreement by waiting for City Council to meet. **Motion by Gustafson to appoint Ben Maxa, Bryan Boone, and Melissa Grover to work as a committee for the School Project representing the City of Bigfork, seconded by Denny, MCU.**

Resolution 2023-08: Approving County Project No. 031-607-033 within Municipal Corporate Limits: Motion by Denny to adopt Resolution 2023-08: Approving County Project No. 031-607-033 within Municipal Corporate Limits, seconded by Gustafson, all voting in favor and MCU.

Amanda Clark Flood Damages: Amanda Clark sent a letter to the City of Bigfork regarding an estimate of damages that occurred due to a backflow valve failure in the City’s sewer system on Golf Course Lane. This is not the first time that Amanda has had damage to her home due to the city’s infrastructure failures. She has requested at this time \$1,247.00 to cover the damages and losses due to the flooding. Gustafson made the comment that when Scooter’s ran their equipment through the pipes it was clearly a breakage on the city’s side of the infrastructure, so we are at fault. **Motion by Maxa to pay for the damages and losses to Amanda Clark in the amount of \$1247.00 seconded by Denny, and MCU.**

OTHER/ ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next meeting is May 9, 2023, at 5:30PM at Bigfork City Hall

Motion to adjourn at 6:11p.m. by Maxa, seconded by Denny, and MCU.

Melissa J. Grover

City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved at the regular meeting held on
May 9, 2023

Mayor