

City of Bigfork
Regular City Council Meeting
December 10, 2024
5:30 p.m.

Members Present: Amy Pifher, Sarah Scheff, Samantha Olson,
Members Absent: Ben Maxa, Jerry Denny
Also Present: Matt Gross, Sarah Stone, Sally Sedgwick,

Mayor Pifher called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

The pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Public Forum was opened.

Sarah Stone from EOWSKI attended the meeting tonight to inform the City Council that the EOWSKI club is looking for volunteers to groom the trail this winter. They are hoping they can get the trail passable for skiers this year as last year was such a poor year for snowfall. Anyone looking to volunteer their time to help groom the trail can reach out to Sarah Stone.

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

Motion to approve the Agenda by Scheff, seconded by Olson, and MCU.

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

1. Minutes of the November 12, 2024, Regular City Council meeting,
2. City Clerk's office report for November 2024,
3. Financial report for November 2024,
4. Public Works Department Report for November 2024,
5. Payroll and timecards for November 22, 2024, and December 6, 2024, regular payrolls, in the amount of \$7,908.57
Annual 2024 Payroll for City Council, Cemetery Sexton, Employee payout, and Fire Department in the amount of \$27,228.38.
6. Claims paid from November 2024, in the amount of \$5,447.95 and claims for payment in the amount of \$62,319.61
7. 2025 Liquor License Renewal: to approve liquor license renewal for Bigfork Wilderness Bar for 2025.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2023 Financial Audit: Once Jon from Miller McDonald has cleared his schedule a little, he will present the 2023 Audit to the council. Still have not received the Financial booklets from him with the final report, once received they will be available for council to review.

NEW BUSINESS

ISD 318 School District Update: Matt Gross the Superintendent for ISD 318 attended tonight's meeting to give an ISD 318 update to the City Council. Matt has formed a School advisory committee with the Bigfork school so that they can have a voice in what happens at ISD 318. ISD 318 is the 3rd largest in Minnesota. ISD 318 serves over 30 cities and 2 Tribal nations. ISD 318 serves at 9 different Educational Sites. There are 3 new school board members entering in 2025. ISD 318 employs 572 individuals district wide. Some priorities that ISD 318 has are equitable education, belonging, evidence based approaches, partnerships, communication, and stewardship of resources. The school district budget this year is balanced. Revenue for FY25 is \$64,841,000 and expenditure is \$63,971,000. FY23 is the most recent year the district has comparable data and ISD 318 spends about \$14,376 per student per year. The biggest challenge that ISD 318 has been facing is funding gaps between State and Federal funding, so the school district is getting less than they need. ISD 318 looks forward to working with the Bigfork Community to continue to foster growth and community in their schools.

3rd Street Vacation Proposal from Widseth: Mr. and Mrs. Collins inquired to the city about getting the alleyway by their property on 3rd street narrowed. Widseth has stated that currently the alleyway shows 66 feet across, cutting into the Collins' property. The Collins have asked the city to look into vacating a small portion to narrow the alleyway, this would be vacated to them. Melissa reached out to Widseth to put together a proposal of what they are looking for. Widseth has quoted the city \$1,000 for this vacation. Scheff asked if the Collins would be willing to split the cost 50/50. Melissa did state that Collin's would very likely decline that offer. The Council asked Melissa to reach out to them regarding the cost share. **Motion to accept the proposal by Widseth for vacating areas on 3rd street for \$1,000 should the Collin's agree to cost share by Olson, seconded by Scheff, and MCU.**

Bids for Fire Truck- In House Bid: The Fire Department officers decided they would make an in house bid for the brush rig that is broke down. The cost of repairing the truck was more than the value of the truck so they decided purchasing a newer and more reliable brush rig was in the fire department's best interest. In house bids were posted for a month. The city received 2 bids for this truck. \$3255.55 by Jeremiah Gilbertson, \$2,213 Matt Dahlke. **Motion to accept the offer of \$3,255.55 for the 1992 Chevy Truck from Jeremiah Gilbertson by Pifher, seconded by Olson, and MCU.**

ARPA Recipient Certification: The city has been granted \$7,000.00 from Itasca County ARP Funds. This money is to go towards the Softball field and the Skating rink for improvements for city property. **Motion to accept the ARPA Funds of \$7,000.00 by Olson, seconded by Scheff, and MCU.**

Council Member Resignation: Council member Denny has decided to hand in his resignation. With his girlfriend's health issues he is finding it hard to make his commitment to the city and would like that position to be granted to someone who is more readily available. **Motion to accept Jerry Denny's resignation by Olson, seconded by Scheff, and MCU.**

OTHER/ ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next Council meeting is January 14, 2025 at 5:30 PM at Bigfork City Hall

Meeting Schedule for 2025 can be found on the table near the sign in sheet.

Motion to adjourn at 6:53 p.m. by Olson, seconded by Scheff, and MCU.

Melissa J. David

City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved at the regular meeting held on
January 14, 2025

Mayor