

**City of Bigfork**  
**Regular City Council Meeting**  
**December 12, 2019**  
**5:30 p.m.**

**Members Present:** Mayor Bryan Boone, Paul Gustafson, David Mann, Andrew Francisco, Ben Maxa and Junior Council Members Hannah Johnson and James Rauzi

**Members Absent:** None

**Also Present:** Steve Griesert, Tim Johnson, George Rounds, Sandra LeBlanc-Boland, Tom Boland, Sarah Carling, Aaron Saude, Gary Erickson, Travis Luedke, Curt Meyer, Gail Leverson, Scarlett Maxa, Sally Sedgewick and Travis Lovdahl

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.

County Commissioner Terry Snyder was removed from the agenda. ***Motion by Mann to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Francisco, motion carried unanimously (MCU).***

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

- 1. minutes of the November 14 regular City Council meeting,***
- 2. City Clerk's office report for November 2019,***
- 3. financial report for November 2019,***
- 4. Public Works Department report for November 2019,***
- 5. payroll and timecards for November 15 and 29 regular payrolls in the amount of \$7,188.73***
- 6. claims paid in the amount of \$5,442.06 and claims for payment in the amount of \$28,638.68***
- 7. approval of the transfer of \$36,697.84 from the General investment account to the City Hall Restoration Fund***
- 8. approval of liquor license renewal applications for Bigfork Wilderness Bar and Kocian's IGA for 2020.***

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Housing Study Findings & Recommendations:** Steve Griesert of Community Partners Research presented study results and recommendations. He reviewed data including demographics, condition of current housing, employment, and economic trends. He went on to review recommendations which focused mainly on protection and promotion of existing resources. There were questions from the audience on population growth goals and what will be done with the housing study. Rural Community Coordinator Tim Johnson noted that much of this

information will be used in the comprehensive plan update in 2020. Griesert recommended working with all stakeholders to come up with a plan for implementation of those recommendations that are deemed feasible.

**Engineering Update:** City Engineer Curt Meyer of Widseth-Smith-Nolting presented a pay request from Utility Systems of America for work completed on the Rajala Lift Station project. ***Motion by Mann to approve the pay request in the amount of \$65,725.60, seconded by Gustafson, MCU.***

Meyer reviewed that Council action at the last meeting had begun the process of issuing a micro-loan to fund the project. Since that time Boone investigated the option of the City cash flowing the project using its own fund balance, paying it back with a combination of a monthly fee on all sewer bills for one year and designated budget funds for debt service. Preliminary number-crunching has shown a need for residential sewer accounts to pay an additional \$260 in 2020 (or \$22 per month), slightly higher for larger/commercial users. Other options were discussed including longer terms to stretch that amount over. It was determined that three options would be presented at a public hearing during the January meeting for input from sewer customers. Gail Leverson noted that if there is significant opposition to this idea, the City could re-start the loan process after the hearing.

***Motion by Boone to transfer \$14,000 from the Sewer Fund to the 2019 Lift Station Replacement fund, seconded by Mann, MCU.*** This transfer represents amounts in the 2019 budget available to put toward the cost of the project.

Meyer's final item was the need to call for a public hearing for the issuance of a tax abatement bond for the 2020 Ash Street and Rajala Mill Road Improvement Project. ***Motion by Mann to adopt Resolution 2019-19 calling for a public hearing, seconded by Gustafson, MCU.***

\*Fire Chief Travis Lovdahl was moved to this point in the meeting.

**Fire Department Equipment Purchase Request:** Lovdahl reported that the presence of carcinogens in fire department gear has been a big topic over the last few years. The Fire Department received a grant for a gear washer/extractor, and they would like to purchase a dryer to go with it. ***Motion to approve the purchase by Francisco, seconded by Gustafson, MCU.***

**Resolution 2019-20 – Telecommuter Forward! Community Certification:** Boone reviewed that this was discussed at the November meeting and concerns brought forth about the time commitment. After further discussion with Representative Sandstede's office, Boone and the Clerk feel it is manageable. ***Motion to approve Resolution 2019-20 by Francisco, seconded by Maxa, MCU.***

**2019-2021 Audit Engagement:** The Council had requested that CliftonLarsonAllen give the same rate for each of the next three years. CLA was unable to accommodate this request. ***Motion by Francisco, seconded by Gustafson to approve the original proposal from CLA for audit services from 2019 through 2021, MCU.***

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Planning Commission Recommendation – Ordinance 189, Amending Title VII:** These amendments are as recommended by American Legal Publishing. ***Motion by Mann, seconded by Francisco to adopt Ordinance 189, MCU.***

**OTHER**

***Motion to adjourn by Mann at 7:30 p.m., seconded by Maxa, MCU.***

Angela L. Storlie  
*City Clerk/Treasurer*