

**City of Bigfork**  
**Regular City Council Meeting**  
**December 13, 2022**  
**5:30 p.m.**

Members Present: Bryan Boone, David Mann, Andrew Francisco, Ben Maxa, Paul Gustafson  
Members Absent:  
Also Present: Haley Grover, Allison Weddle, Kyle Buckingham AKA the Grinch, Gary Erickson, Sally Sedgwick

Mayor Boone called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Reverend Boone opened with a prayer.

The pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the Public Forum was opened.

Bryan Boone asked Mr Erickson to be here, and they had sat down together and had a healthy discussion regarding how the council, and he have approached issues in the past and how to do a better job discussing any issues in the future. Bryan Boone also apologized to the council on how he could have done a better job handling these issues.

Gary Erickson approached the City Council regarding the same topic as Bryan Boone and he stated that he has had difficulty approaching the council and he has apologized for the ways that he has communicated in the past. Stating that, he has also expressed that he has an interest in the city and its well being and will continue to express these concerns and will work to communicate better in the future. He said that he wants to work with the City Council in the future while finding a way to do so in a matter that is in the best interest of the city and the community.

Haley Grover, Allison Weddle & Kyle Buckingham attended the meeting tonight to talk to the City Council regarding plans for the 2023 Wilderness Days Event. They had some concerns regarding the upcoming road construction on Main Street. They are wondering what the access will be on main street. Bryan stated that MN Dot is hoping to keep one lane open during the process to allow the traffic to flow more smoothly. Allison wanted to know what options they would have available to have vendors set up. Bryan stated the possibility of setting up at the school, hospital or even the softball field. Paul also mentioned that if the back ally was used the possibility of asking business owners in the city regarding use of their property to allow vendors to set up. Melissa presented the idea of the ATV parking lot and using Ash street for the parade, along with allowing vendors to set up at the city park. Melissa was asked to contact MNDot and the County regarding the road work and possible start dates of the projects.

Bryan Boone also stated that the City has been rewarded \$95,000 from the ARP Funds to put towards the Water Tower Project. The city has also been contacted by MN Power regarding charging station installations throughout the town. He has been asked to plan with MN Power possible locations for these stations.

The Ice rink will be cared for by Scott Storlie & Monte Tendrup.

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

**City Hall rental Proposal & Farewell from David Mann added to the Agenda. Motion by Mann to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Gustafson, motion carried unanimously (MCU).**

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

1. Minutes of the November 8, 2022, Regular City Council meeting
2. City Clerk's office report for November 2022,
3. Financial report for November 2022,
4. Public Works Department Report for November 2022
5. Payroll and timecards for November 10, 2022, and November 25, 2022, regular payrolls, in the amount of \$6,956.75  
Annual payroll for City Council, Cemetery Sexton, & Fire Department Members in the amount of \$19,930.68
6. Claims paid in November in the amount of \$5,795.35 and claims for payment in the amount of \$141,236.60
7. Liquor License Renewal for the Bigfork Wilderness Bar for 2023.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Bobcat Quotes:** Joe Zimmer has received two quotes for a new Bobcat for the public works department. He received a quote from Bobcat from \$73,062.64 and a quote from Kubota for \$74,068.03. After discussion the Council stated that they would leave the decision on which machine to purchase to Joe. **Motion to approve the purchase of a new Bobcat from either Bobcat or Kubota by Mann, seconded by Maxa, MCU.**

**Blandin Foundation Community Development Grant (Quote from WiDseth to inspect trestle bridge & fishing pier ideas from Kacie):** Joe Zimmer contacted WiDseth asking for a quote to come inspect the two walk trail bridges. The quote was for \$3,563.00. Francisco stated that \$3,563.00 is a small price to pay compared to if there are any breaks on the bridge in the future. **Motion to approve WiDseth to inspect the bridge by Mann, seconded by Gustafson, MCU.**

Kacie Stanek from the DNR office in grand rapids sent an email presenting a few different ideas with pictures on the fishing pier for the city to take into consideration. Kacie requested that the city closely monitor the spring river breakup and the water level fluctuations. Bryan Boone asked Melissa to inquire about the cost differences in the docks/piers to present to the council to aid in their decision making.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Power at Softball Field: Quote for installation:** Samantha Adams from MN Power sent a cost estimate to install Power at the Softball field. The city was quoted from MN Power \$4,100.00. The council asked Melissa what the cost month to month would look like for the soft ball field. Melissa stated in comparison that the cost of power at the cemetery and the ice rink were \$15-\$17 a month.

**Motion to Accept the Quote for Installation of Power at the Softball Field paid by the Gambling Tax Fund by Mann, seconded by Francisco, MCU.**

**Canvass of 2022 General Election Results:** The following results for the City of Bigfork 2022 General Election were received from the Itasca County Auditor's Office:

There were 205 registered voters on election day with 0 new registrants on election day. 125 ballots were cast for a 61% voter turn-out.

For the office of Mayor, Bryan Boone received 98 votes and there were 12 different write ins. Bryan Boone is the winner of that seat. For the two offices of Council Member, Sarah Scheff received 110 votes and Jerry Denny received 22 write in votes. They are each a winner of one of those seats. **Motion to accept the 2022 General Election results by Mann, seconded by Maxa, MCU.**

**Water/Sewer Customer Adjustments:** The City received a letter from a community member asking for a portion of their bill to be reduced or adjusted due to a water leak where the city installed their water meter. Melissa and Bryan agreed during a visit to her office that since the leak was the City's fault, to waive the cost differences during this time period that the meter was leaking. Bryan stated that it would be a good idea to create a policy that allows Melissa to decide on these matters should the cost be lower than a set amount. Melissa was asked to draw up a policy idea to present at a future council meeting.

**NPDES Permit Compliance Summary from MN Pollution Control Agency:** reviewed by the council per Joe's request.

**Walk Bridge Sign:** The city received a complaint regarding the condition of the walking bridge that leads to the school from main street. The bridge has been in icy conditions. Joe and Bryan spoke about the fact that the bridge is very hard to clear due to the heavy foot traffic. Bryan also stated that because he understands that the bridge may be icy, he thinks the city should have Creek Bank Printing create 2 signs to place at the entrance of the bridge as a caution of the conditions. David said putting in a sign would be a good idea however; it should be taken into consideration that being cautious regarding the bridge should be expected especially in the winter time.

**Temporary Pay Increase for Public Works:** Due to Joe Zimmer being out for the next 2 months on medical leave Melissa presented the idea to the council to raise Aaron's pay to Joe's wage during

the time he is off as he is assuming the responsibility of the position. Melissa also presented to the council stating the same should be done for Paul as he is being called in more and on an on-call status due to Joe's absence. **Motion to increase Aaron's hourly wage to \$27.23 and Paul's hourly wage to \$20.20 during Joe's Absence by Maxa, seconded by Mann, MCU.**

**City Hall Rental Proposal: Bryan Boone stepped away from his mayoral position to present a letter to the Council.** The letter is inquiring about the Assembly's of God church renting the hall to host their Sunday morning services. They understand that there is a rental fee and they do not want to take advantage of the non-profit free waiving that the city does and understand that it would be approximately \$2,600.00/year. In the letter it also states that the church understands that other community members use the hall, and they would be willing to work around any other interested parties that want to rent as long as they are notified ahead of time to make other arrangements. In addition, they have presented the idea of purchasing larger TVs and lighter weight folding tables for the Hall as a donation to the city should they be allowed to rent it. Drew stated that this should be discussed once the new council members so that they are involved in the decision making. This item is to be added to the next City council meeting.

**Farewell from David Mann:** David Mann read a poem he wrote to the city council saying his farewells.

**OTHER/ ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Next City Council Meeting is January 10, 2023 at 5:30PM.

Please join us for cake afterwards to say thank you to council members David Mann & Andrew Francisco for their years of service.

**Motion to adjourn at 6:30 p.m. by Mann, seconded by Francisco, and MCU.**

Melissa J. Grover

*City Clerk/Treasurer*

Approved at the regular meeting held on  
January 10,2022

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Mayor