

City of Bigfork
Regular City Council Meeting
February 11, 2021
5:30 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Ben Maxa and David Mann

Also Present: Joe Sutherland, Gene Rajala, Jeremiah Gilbertson and Sally Sedgewick (via Zoom)

Mayor Boone called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the Public Forum was opened. Gene Rajala discussed the need to expand the cemetery. Jeremiah Gilbertson introduced himself as the new Fire Chief. As no one else wished to address the Council, the public forum was closed.

Boone removed Francisco Washer from the agenda until all Council members could be present. ***Motion by Francisco to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Gustafson motion carried unanimously (MCU).***

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

1. Removed for further discussion
2. ***City Clerk's office report for January 2021,***
3. ***financial report for January 2021,***
4. ***Public Works Department report for January 2021,***
5. ***payroll and timecards for January 22 and February 5, 2021 regular payrolls in the amount of \$7,105.46***
6. ***claims paid in the amount of \$8,863.64 and claims for payment in the amount of \$86,478.94***

Consent Agenda Item 1. Minutes: Boone noted that the motion on page 3 regarding the Water Main Break should read "motion carried 4-0 with Francisco abstaining". ***Motion by Boone to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Francisco, MCU.***

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Engineering Update: Joe Sutherland of Widseth provided an update on the Ash Street & Rajala Mill Road project. The project went out for bids yesterday with the bid opening scheduled for March 9th. The bid package includes four bid alternates that can be utilized if bids come in higher than expected so that the project cost does not exceed available funds. The Council will review

bids at the March 11th meeting and forward a recommendation to Itasca County for bid award at their March 23rd meeting.

Gene Rajala – dog at large violation: Rajala expressed his opinion that the council was trying to solve a problem that does not exist with the new dog ordinance. He stated that his dog is not vicious, and he built a seven-foot-high kennel for it but it can climb out. Boone stated that he understands Rajala’s dog is not vicious, but it still cannot be running loose around town. He has received complaints from families using the skating rink that the dog jumps up on kids. Boone also pointed out that the dog ordinance is not new; it has been on the books for many years, but the City had no way to enforce it and the recent updates to the ordinance have addressed that deficiency.

Update on other Dog at Large Violations: Boone noted for Council that there have been 8 additional dog at large violations, all on the same dog, and copies of those were included in the Council packet. He was able to visit with the owner about this issue and was told that this dog is going to be re-homed with another family out of Bigfork City limits.

Hwy 38 Property Bids: No bids were received.

Administrative Policy Amendments – Investments: The Clerk provided amended policy language related to investment funds as requested at the last meeting. ***Motion by Gustafson to adopt the policy as amended, seconded by Francisco, MCU.***

NEW BUSINESS

Addition of Position to Union: Operating Engineers Local 49 approached the City about the city clerk position being added to the union contract. The benefit to the City would be a monthly cost savings on the City’s portion of the health insurance premium. The benefit to the employee would be a credit toward the cost of health insurance upon retirement. The Clerk had no objections to this proposal. ***Motion by Gustafson to approve including the position of City Clerk in the union contract contingent upon approval by the Bureau of Mediation Services, seconded by Francisco, MCU.***

Resolution 2021-02: This resolution sets the polling place location as “mail-in ballot” for any special elections that may be necessary in 2021. ***Adoption of Resolution 2021-02 was moved by Boone, second by Gustafson, MCU.***

Snow Blower Attachment Purchase: Boone reported that he and Zimmer had a meeting with MnDOT representatives regarding snow removal on Main Street to define which entity is responsible for which portions of street/sidewalk. They discussed the Hwy 38 bridge sidewalks specifically because of the difficulty the City has keeping those cleared when MnDOT plows come by multiple times per day and throw snow back onto them. The Public Works Department feels that the purchase of a new snow blower attachment for the Bobcat would make this task easier. A quote was obtained in the amount of \$4,930.88 for the attachment. ***Motion by Gustafson, seconded by Francisco to approve this purchase, MCU.*** Funds for this will be taken from the designated savings for Public Works equipment.

OTHER/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Council noted the list of days the City Clerk’s office will be closed for vacation and training over the next several months as follows: March 17-18, April 12-16, May 10-14, and June 14-18.

Motion to adjourn by Francisco at 6:17 p.m., seconded by Gustafson, MCU.

Angela L. Storlie
City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved at the regular meeting held on
March 11, 2021

Mayor