

City of Bigfork
Regular City Council Meeting
February 21, 2023
5:30 p.m.

Members Present: Bryan Boone, Paul Gustafson, Jerry Denny, Sarah Scheff
Members Absent: Ben Maxa
Also Present: Sean Lewis, Kent K, Randy Costley, 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.

The Public Forum was opened.

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

Microsoft Teams Call from Randy Costley of MNDOT on HWY 38, and Update on School Project from ICS added to the agenda. Motion by Gustafson to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Denny, motion carried unanimously (MCU).

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

1. Minutes of the January 10, 2023, Regular City Council meeting
2. City Clerk's office report for January 2023,
3. Financial report for January 2023,
4. Public Works Department Report for January 2023,
5. Payroll and timecards for January 20, 2023, February 3, 2023, and February 17, 2023, regular payrolls, in the amount of \$10,100.45
6. Claims paid in November in the amount of \$9,310.78 and claims for payment in the amount of \$44,336.23.
7. Pay Equity Report for 2022.

Microsoft Teams Call from Randy Costley of MNDOT on HWY 38 Project/ Resolution 2023-04: Contract No. 1051863 with MNDOT: Randy Costley has provided the city with an agreement on the funds expected of the city for the 38 projects along with the responsibility for the city. A resolution has been included in the agenda. The agreement is for city water and sewer work that may be needed along with the lighting as MNDOT needs to complete the project, this includes any aid needed in locating the infrastructure and aid in managing the manhole covers etc. There is also a contract included that explains the city's financial responsibility for this project that is

estimated to total \$46,806.29. Bryan Boone asked Randy what the total anticipated cost of the project would be compared to the City's responsibility. Randy said that the total cost is projected to be around \$3 million. Randy also summarized the work to be completed for the new council members to bring them up to speed. Bryan Boone asked Randy about the snow removal plan on main street following the project. Randy stated that there is nothing in the agreement that includes snow removal as of now but that he would talk with the MNDOT garage on their plan for snow removal once the project is completed. **Motion to approve Agreement and Accept Resolution 2023-04 Contract No. 1051863 with MNDOT by Gustafson, seconded by Scheff, and MCU.**

Bigfork Community & School Project Update from ICS: Kent and Sean from ICS came from Grand Rapids to update the City Council on the Bigfork Community & School Project. The Bigfork Community has gathered approximately 1.5 million in funding with the total project estimated at 3.9 million. ICS is the representative for the project that is managing the project as a whole. There are currently 7 contracts between ICS and ISD 318 for the completion of the project. Currently they are at the construction administration stage, preparing materials and contractors for construction to begin as soon as school is out in the Spring. The project includes remodels to the parking lots in the back of the school and a paved walkway from the school to the football field. There is also a 2000sq.ft addition to the new fitness center that connects to the new locker rooms and football field. There will be new locker rooms being remodeled where there are currently classrooms, and those classrooms will be moved to where the library is. The library is also being moved to the old computer lab. All of these projects are to expand and unify the classroom layout of the school. They also provided an overview of the schedule: start doing earth work around May 15, interior renovations around June 5, Substantial completion August 25, staff can occupy classrooms by August 28, and first day of school is September 4.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Donation Request from Bigfork Valley Community Foundation: Discussion was made on whether it would be hypocritical for the city to donate funds to the Bigfork Valley Community Foundation as the City often accepts funds from them, it was decided that the council members would think on this and has been tabled.

Water/Sewer Adjustment Policy: Melissa was asked to make a few revisions to the water/sewer adjustment policy to clarify the grace period on late payments. The policy states that should a customer believe there is an error in their billing, they must contact the City Clerk for review. This policy gives Melissa the authority to make any adjustments should they be permitted, and adjustments she is unsure of can be brought to a council member or added to the agenda of the upcoming city council meeting. **Motion to approve the Water/Sewer Adjustment Policy by Scheff, seconded by Denny, and MCU.**

NEW BUSINESS

Donation Request from Carly Moberg: Bryan Boone called Angie Storlie from the League of MN Cities to ask about the legalities involving a direct donation to a business and Angie stated that it

is not legal for the city to donate money to Carly Moberg because it is a business. The city is limited to who they can donate funds to because it is taxpayer dollars. Bryan also had a conversation with her to give her suggestions on where she can look for funding from IEDC and the Blandin Foundation.

Donation Request from First Call to Help: Last year the city donated \$500. **Motion to donate \$500 to First Call to Help by Boone, seconded by Gustafson, MCU.**

Donation Request from Backwoods Bots Robotics Club: summarize letter. The Backwoods Bots Robotics Club sent a donation/sponsorship request to the City of Bigfork. They are looking for donations to raise money for costs of their competition including: \$6,000 entrance fee for the Lake Superior regionals, spare parts for their robots, team apparel, hotel and food fees, transportation, and any other competition expenses they may incur. Bryan Boone asked Melissa how much money is currently in the Gambling Tax Fund as those funds can be used for the donation. The two new council members asked what those funds were. Melissa explained to them that this money is earned from taxes collected from the state on pull tab winnings within the city. This money, however, can only be used on expenses that include youth, and involvement with the youth. After speaking with League of MN Cities representative Angie Storlie, this money can be used for donations for school sanctioned extracurricular. **Motion to donate \$2,000 to the backwoods bot's robotics club from the gambling tax fund by Denny, seconded by Gustafson, MCU.**

Resolution 2023-05: Approval for Applying for State of Minnesota General Obligation Bond Funding for Bigfork Community & School Project: The city didn't get accepted into the first set of bonding for the school project, but Resolution is for applying for the second set of bonding per Tim Johnson. The resolution states that the City of Bigfork approves of Applying for funding and agrees to accept the funding should it be granted. This would place the City of Bigfork as the fiscal agent. **Motion to accept Resolution 2023-05: Approval for Applying for State of Minnesota General Obligation Bond Funding for the Bigfork Community & School Project by Gustafson, seconded by Denny, MCU.**

OTHER/ ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next City Council Meeting is March 21, 2023, at 5:30PM.

May 9th City Council Meeting Availability for meeting held at the Edge Center, council members to check on availability on meeting time to be held at Edge if it is feasible.

Motion to adjourn at 6:45 p.m. by Gustafson, seconded by Scheff, and MCU.

Melissa J. Grover

City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved at the regular meeting held on
March 21, 2023

Mayor