

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

Members Present: Paul Gustafson, Bryan Boone, Drew Francisco, David Mann, Ben Maxa
Members Absent: Junior Council Member Lily Danielson
Also Present: Joe Zimmer, Jeremiah Gilbertson, Scarlett Maxa, Rouge Maxa, Sally Sedgwick, Chelsea Mann, Esther Mann, Ezra Mann

Mayor Boone called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

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

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

Drivers Training Rental Fee, Part Time Public Works Position, and discussion regarding Police Coverage in Bigfork & surrounding communities & Water Main, Update on Ei2P Building, Fire Department Business to be Added to the agenda. **Motion by Mann to approve agenda as amended, seconded by Gustafson, motion carried unanimously (MCU).**

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

1. Minutes of the December 9, 2021, Regular City Council meeting
2. City Clerk's office report for December 2021,
3. Financial report for December 2021,
4. Public Works Department Report for December 2021,
5. Payroll and timecards for December 10 and December 24, 2021, and January 7, 2022, regular payrolls, in the amount of \$10,605.80
6. Claims paid in December in the amount of \$2,766.33 and claims for payment in the amount of \$131,450.43
7. Scenic Range News Forum to be the Legal Publication for the City of Bigfork
8. 2022 Fire Contracts

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Fire Department Water Tower: Water Tower was easily drained during the last fire call; the fire department is looking for approval to get training and access to the Water tower so that in case of emergency they have access and knowledge to work the water tower pump. **Motion authorize Joe Zimmer to train the Fire Department on the water tower pump made by Boone, seconded by Mann, and MCU.**

Fire Department Purchase of New Truck for Department: The fire chief, Jeremiah Gilbertson addressed the idea of looking into what equipment the department needs, one major item being a new fire truck. He wanted to address the council to approve them looking into looking for a new truck. They are looking at getting a water tender with a higher water volume than what they currently have as they are finding they have been going through a lot of water, as it is needed on the fire calls. The cost is approximately \$350,000.00 with the cost increasing every year. The two trucks they currently have are 1998 and have multiple issues mechanically. The trucks do not qualify for a FEMA grant. The Fire department does qualify for a FEMA grant for a new engine on one truck. They would plan to sell one of the older trucks should they find a new replacement. **Motion to approve the Fire Department to start looking at purchasing a new Fire Tender Truck, made by Mann, Seconded by Gustafson, and MCU.**

2022 Meeting Schedule for City Council: Regular City Council meetings to be moved to the Second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. Planning Commission meetings to be moved to the first Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m.

Airport Snow Removal Policy: It is the desire of the City Council for the City of Bigfork's Public Work's Department to check that the Bigfork Municipal Airport runway is clear in an event such as emergency. This access will help the pilot land to transport patients from Bigfork Valley Hospital in a safe and timely manner that will reflect on the health of the patients. It is expected from the City Council for the Public Work's employee on call, to come in and check that the airport runway and parking lot is cleared of any snow and ice per Bigfork Valley Hospitals request. The on-call employee will receive their typical pay for coming in to check that the runway is clear and that there is room for safe transport should it be needed in the parking lot. This will enable that the emergency vehicles can safely transport patients directly to the plane in a timely manner. **Motion to approve Airport Snow Removal Policy made by Mann, seconded by Gustafson, and MCU.**

Police Coverage in Bigfork & Surrounding Communities: Boone called the Sherriff's department to follow up with Sherriff Williams to discuss options regarding more police coverage in Bigfork, and he has not gotten back to him yet. Collaboration with EOW communities, is a conversation that those township/council/representatives would be interested in once the sheriff's department gets back to Mayor Boone.

Part Time Public Works Position: Joe Zimmer stated he would like an on-call person with duties mainly being snow removal at the airport and some street maintenance. He would like to see this person being on an on-call basis should the Public Works Department need help with snow removal and ice rink maintenance during the winter months. Boone would like Melissa to investigate cost of this and track the spending in comparison to hiring out the extra help to a contractor over the next month. Joe stated that an issue he would like to address is that it costs more to hire Powell's to come out and clear the snow than it would to hire someone to come out for a day or two to come clear the snow with our own equipment. **Motion to Grant Public Works Temporary Approval to have someone come in on an on-call basis to clear the snow at**

the airport and assist with snow removal in City Limits made by Boone, Seconded by Maxa, and MCU.

Water Main Maintenance: Joe Zimmer stated that from Division Ave, all the way to the Hardware store needs to be replaced. Its not a lot of pipe footage wise, but he agrees that it needs to be looked into and would like to meet with Widseth Engineering. Boone asked if there was a way to see the condition of the pipes, Joe stated that the only way to check the pipes would be to dig them up. He would like to place new piping in a different location so that it is not under the road. He discussed just placing new lines, versus digging up the old lines so that the road doesn't need to be tore up as it is newly paved. New service lines would have to be placed at each homeowner's property. Joe thinks this takes precedence over the Water Tower Project. Council would like Zimmer to meet with Widseth to get a better idea of the City's options and the cost of such a project.

NEW BUSINESS

Zoom for City Council Meetings to be Streamed Publicly: Costs for equipment would be \$60-\$80 for camera with a microphone, or a new computer that could be set up in front of the council at approximately \$300-\$600 and a Zoom membership is \$149.99 a year. At this time the Council didn't think that it would be cost effective for the City, as there is only one community member that is interest in this service. Boone would like Melissa to reach out to the community member regarding their decision to not zoom meetings at this time. Council member Gustafson mentioned that the Hall is large enough to safely social distance yourself and masks can be worn should someone show concern regarding COVID-19. The meeting minutes are also public knowledge so if someone wanted to know what was discussed those can be requested a long with if there are any issues said person would like to discuss they can write a letter to the council with the issue.

Transmission in Red Plow Truck: Joe Zimmer received 2 bids for replacement of the transmission on the red Plow Truck. Both have a 3-year warranty. Bid from Powell's was \$4,655.00 and bid from Effie Country Service was \$4999.22. With a 3-year warranty the council would like to replace transmission. **Motion to approve replacement of transmission at Powell's Auto Sales and Service made by Maxa, seconded by Francisco, and MCU.**

Itasca County Grant-In-Aid Snowmobile Landowner Permit: Council would like more information from Snowmobile Club before signing this permit.

Ei2P Building: Tamara reached out to Boone, LakeShirts is not out of the question, they did find another deal in another town. They are still interested in the building in Bigfork. The building had a water break, and was damaged, IEDC is working on a plan for Spring if LakeShirts is no longer interested in the building, with a plan to try to encourage a manufacturer to purchase the building. If a manufacturer isn't interested Boone thinks the idea of renting the building for office space, potential apartments, a community center, workshop space, etc. so that the building stays in use. Boone is looking to see if the city can help with sewer costs or mowing of the lawn in the summer to encourage someone to purchase building. Joe stated that the city could do a portion

of the mowing for building. Drew mentioned if a new manufacturer comes in and buys the building instead of charging them a flat rate for the sewer usage, the possibility of being able to meter their usage and charge them whichever is cheaper.

Drivers Training City Hall Rental Discount: Jim Cagle, A1 drivers training sent an email regarding booking the City Hall for the spring drivers training class. He was curious about the council giving them a discounted rate for rental of the 10 sessions at a cost of \$250. **Motion to charge A1 drivers training \$250 for rental fee made by Francisco, seconded by Gustafson, and MCU.**

OTHER/ ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Questionnaires for Each Council Member to Fill out and return to Melissa to be filed for the 2021 Financial Audit with CliftonLarsonAllen,LLC.

Motion to adjourn at 6:53 p.m. by Boone, seconded by Gustafson, and MCU.

Melissa J. Grover

City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved at the regular meeting held on
February 8, 2022

Mayor