

City of Bigfork
Regular City Council Meeting
January 14, 2025
5:30 p.m.

Members Present: Amy Pifher, Sarah Scheff, Samantha Olson, Annette Buckingham
Members Absent:
Also Present: Sally Sedgwick, Caleb Strandlie, Josh Manske, Aaron Gould, Jeremy Schwarze, Ted Benson, Charlene Waldron,

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

The pledge of Allegiance was recited.

New Council Members & Mayor were sworn in by City Clerk.

The Public Forum was opened.

Members from the Bigfork Improvement Group attended to express to the city council that they are looking for members to join them from Bigfork. They are looking for volunteers from people who live in Bigfork to help service the area as of right now they only have one member that lives within city limits. They are hoping to find local support so that the current members do not get burnt out from their volunteer hours. The BIG Center is used as a community center, they host numerous events throughout the year for the youth and the elderly. Their next meeting is February 5th at 5:30PM at the BIG Center, anyone that would be interested in joining can attend, the meeting is open to the public.

Charlene Waldron attended the meeting to discuss some issues she has in town regarding the plowing, she has fallen a few times due to the ice on the sidewalks. Secondly, she has been wondering if the city can install posts for doggy bags for cleanup after animals. She also addressed the beach and the skating rink not being accessible to the public during winter. She is fairly concerned about the rink being posted and opened. She stated the condition of the ice is horrendous and she would like to see it open up for the kids. She also stated that she would be open to helping tend to the skating rink.

Josh Manske addressed the council regarding the dogs running loose in town especially the aggressive ones on Ida Street. Josh states that he has been nipped and growled while walking to work. Josh is scared of his own safety when walking to and from work. Manske also stated that he would be willing to volunteer to help with the skating rink.

Mayor Amy Pifher did address how to formerly report any dogs at large to the city and to the sheriff's office.

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

Add the Skating Rink to the Agenda Under New Business. Motion to approve the Agenda by Scheff, seconded by Olson, and MCU.

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

1. Minutes of the December 10, 2024, Regular City Council meeting,
2. City Clerk's office report for December 2024,
3. Financial report for December 2024,
4. Public Works Department Report for December 2024,
5. Payroll and timecards for December 20, 2024, and January 3, 2025, regular payrolls, in the amount of \$8,579.03
6. Claims paid from December 2024, in the amount of \$14,375.25 and claims for payment in the amount of \$118,319.41
7. 2025 Fire Protection Contracts to be sent to surrounding Townships & City's.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Lead Water Study & Water Tower/Main PER Study Updates: Widseth: Caleb Strandlie and Jeremy Schwarze from Widseth attended the meeting to discuss what is next for the City regarding the Lead Water Study. Widseth will be applying for the funding for these connections to be replaced in the residents' homes or businesses should they need to be replaced. The grant application would also cover any city connections that would need to be addressed. Caleb is looking for approval from the City to apply for this funding on behalf of the city. Caleb also mentioned that Aaron and all public works departments statewide will have a website to log into to mark and track the lines coming from each connection within the city. **Motion by Scheff to grant permission and approval for Widseth to Apply for PFA Funding and to submit the PLA Application on behalf of the city for the Lead and Copper Service Line Inventory, seconded by Olson, and MCU.**

Caleb also gave an update on the PER Study for the Water Tower/ Water Main project. The last update we had was in regard to the soil by the bridge being tested and they did not find anything in their study. Now the City is waiting for the final study to be completed. Once completed Widseth can continue with grant and funding applications.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2025-01: Declaring City Council Vacancy: Edit portion under 2. To say council not mayoral. Should there be no interest the posting will be extended. **Motion by Scheff to accept Resolution 2025-01 Declaring City Council Vacancy, with the change of mayoral to councilor, seconded by Olson, and MCU.**

Motion by Scheff to have Melissa create a posting for the Scenic Range News Forum declaring the vacancy and accepting letters of interest, seconded by Olson, and MCU.

Resolution 2025-02: Appointments: Appointments agreed upon by Council are as follows: Official Publication, Scenic Range News Forum; Official Depository, First State Bank of Bigfork; Electronic Funds Transfer Authority, Melissa David; Acting Mayor, Samantha Olson; City Attorney, Paul Shaffer; City Engineer, Widseth Smith & Nolting; Airport Manager, Melissa David; Zoning Administrator, Melissa David; Cemetery Sexton, Jerry Pula; Board of Health, Amy Pifher & Dr. Jeff Scrivner; Emergency Management Organization, Amy Pifher, Aaron Gould, Melissa David; Budget Committee, Amy Pifher, Sarah Scheff, Samantha Olson, Aaron Gould, Melissa David, Planning & Zoning Commission, Amy Pifher, Dean Haley, Gus David: this board is looking for 2 additional members from the city at large, Pifher asked Melissa to create a posting for the positions. Safety Committee, Aaron Gould and Paul Gustafson, Identity Theft Prevention Program Administrator, Melissa David; Identity Theft Prevention Committee, Melissa David and Aaron Gould; Assistant Weed Inspector, Paul Gustafson; Data Practices Responsible Authority, Melissa David; Data Practices Compliance Official, Melissa David; Joint Powers Board Representative, Amy Pifher & alternate is Samantha Olson; Bigfork River Board is Amy Pifher & Samantha Olson as alternate; Highway 38 Leadership Board, Amy Pifher; Fire Chief, Andrew Francisco, 1st Assistant Fire Chief, Randy Collins; 2nd Assistant Fire Chief, Curt Youngkin; Fire Secretary, Julia Collins; Fire Training Officer, Danyelle Lovdahl; Fire Maintenance Officer, Matt Sheppard; Fire Communications Officer, Scot Hanson; Fire Safety Officer, Rob Anderson; Fire Budget Manager, Dan Heinecke.
Motion by Olson to accept Resolution 2025-02 Appointments seconded by Scheff, and MCU.

Resolution 2025-03: Authorizing ACH Payments: Motion by Olson to accept Resolution 2025-03 Authorizing ACH Payments seconded by Scheff, and MCU.

Skating Rink: Mayor Pifher stated that currently the city is still looking for a skating rink attendant. There have been a few community members who have offered to volunteer to flood the skating rink. However, the volunteers have been unable to flood the rink so that the ice is skatable. The city has had an ad posted in the scenic range news forum for the position for approximately two months with no interest. Until the City can find a skating rink attendant the skating rink is closed to the public. Once the skating rink is open it will be posted at the warming shack and on the city's Facebook page.

OTHER/ ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next Council meeting is February 11, 2025 at 5:30 PM at Bigfork City Hall

Meeting Schedule for 2025 can be found on the table near the sign in sheet.

Motion to adjourn at 6:20 p.m. by Pifher, seconded by Buckingham, and MCU.

Melissa J. David

City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved at the regular meeting held on
February 11, 2025

Mayor