

**City of Bigfork**  
**Regular City Council Meeting**  
**November 12, 2024**  
**5:30 p.m.**

Members Present: Amy Pifher, Sarah Scheff, Samantha Olson,  
Members Absent: Ben Maxa, Jerry Denny  
Also Present: Annette Buckingham, Caleb Strandlie, Archie Wass, Rick Schulz, Sally Sedgwick

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

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.

**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 October 8, 2024, Regular City Council meeting,
2. City Clerk's office report for October 2024,
3. Financial report for October 2024,
4. Public Works Department Report for October 2024,
5. Payroll and timecards for October 11, 2024, and October 25, 2024, regular payrolls, in the amount of \$8,133.03.
6. Claims paid from October 2024, in the amount of \$5,868.88 and claims for payment in the amount of \$72,307.10
7. Insurance Renewal: Approval to not waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by Minn. Stat. 466.04.
8. 2025 Liquor License Renewal: to approve liquor license renewal application for Bigfork Wilderness Bar for 2025.

**Wilderness Wheelers Route through City to CR 236:** Archie Wass and Rick Schulz from the Wilderness Wheelers Club attended the meeting to ask for permission and a preferred route on their trail going to Effie. Archie mentioned the route going through the back alley behind main street, cutting across Hwy 38 to Ottum, then back to CR 225, then going up through N Divion to the King Rd. This would be a temporary route until the club is able to complete a more scenic route. Scheff asked if signage would be placed to help slow down the wheelers in the areas with homes. Archie said they would absolutely be putting up signs for 15mph. Archie also asked the

city for a letter of support for the trail from council as it will help them attain more grant funding. Pifher asked Melissa to draft a letter for her to review.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**WIDSETH Water Service Lines:** Lead service line project is still being completed. Melissa sent out letters to the constituents that have either galvanized or unidentified lines. Caleb stated that these lines will be treated as potential lead due to the Mn Department of Health. The city only tested lines from the Shutoffs. Caleb said there will be funding available for the city and the homeowners to replace these lines or test them further to determine what they are. Caleb said that with the other water main/ water tower project we would plan those projects together so that we qualify for more grant money. Caleb said that with the size of our city having only 27 galvanized and unidentified lines is a small number, the 6 galvanized lines will need to be replaced, the unidentified will need to be examined further.

**2023 Financial Audit:** Melissa was able to get an extended due date for the financial report from OSA to Oct 18. Jon Roscoe of Miller McDonald did get the audit report submitted in time so the State will not put a hold on the city's LGA funding. Once Jon has cleared his schedule a little he will present the 2023 Audit to council.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Canvass of 2024 Election Results:** The following results for the City of Bigfork 2024 General Election were received from the Itasca County Auditor's Office:

There were 198 registered voters on election day with 14 new registrants on election day. 167 ballots were cast for a 84% voter turnout.

For the Mayor office, Amy Pifher received 119 votes and there were 10 different write ins. Amy Pifher is the winner of that seat.

For the two offices of Council Member, Annette Buckingham received 123 votes and Samantha received 102 votes. There were 7 write ins. They are each a winner of one of those seats.

**Motion to accept the 2024 General Election results by Pifher, seconded by Olson, MCU.**

## **OTHER/ ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Next Council meeting is December 10, 2024, at 5:30 PM at Bigfork City Hall

Toys 4 Tots Dropoff Box is located outside the city clerk's office. Monetary donations can be given by scanning the QR Code, otherwise unwrapped gifts can be dropped off anytime during regular business hours.

Melissa contacted lawyer Paul Shaffer, attorney, he is working on a contract to present to council.

Motion to adjourn at 6:09 p.m. by Olson, seconded by Scheff, and MCU.

Melissa J. David

*City Clerk/Treasurer*

Approved at the regular meeting held on  
December 10, 2024

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Mayor