

City of Bigfork
Regular City Council Meeting
November 14, 2019
5:30 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Bryan Boone, Paul Gustafson, David Mann, Andrew Francisco and Junior Council Members Hannah Johnson and James Rauzi

Members Absent: Ben Maxa

Also Present: Joe Zimmer, Curt Meyer, Chelsea & Ezra Mann, Gary Erickson and Sally Sedgewick

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the public forum was opened. As no one wished to address the Council, the public forum was closed.

Boone added Telecommuter Forward and Painting/TV Placement to the agenda under Other. ***Motion by Mann to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Gustafson, motion carried unanimously (MCU).***

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

- 1. minutes of the October 10 regular City Council meeting,***
- 2. City Clerk's office report for October 2019,***
- 3. financial report for October 2019,***
- 4. Public Works Department report for October 2019,***
- 5. payroll and timecards for October 18 and November 1 regular payrolls in the amount of \$7,223.33***
- 6. claims paid in the amount of \$7,270.19 and claims for payment in the amount of \$20,097.84***
- 7. approval of the transfer of \$36,697.84 from the General investment account to the City Hall Restoration Fund***
- 8. approval of Resolution 2019-14: Authorizing Budgeted Transfers for 2019***
- 9. approval of Resolution 2019-15: Designating Polling Place***
- 10. not waiving the statutory limits on municipal tort liability insurance established by MN Statute 466.04***

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Engineering Update: Curt Meyer from Widseth Smith Nolting reported that a pre-construction meeting on the Rajala lift station project took place earlier in the day and work is set to begin Wednesday, November 20. As discussed in the past, a Minnesota Rural Water loan will be used to fund the project. Meyer reminded the Council that they had talked about rolling this together with

the street project as one loan, but he has since learned that the two projects must be handled differently because one is an enterprise fund (sewer) project and the other is a general fund (streets) project. The current rate on a 10-year micro loan is 2.75%. The amount needed is just under \$100,000 which includes the bid amount, engineering fees, contingency and loan issuance costs. A 7-year loan is also available. As sewer rates will need to be increased to cover these payments, it was felt the 10-year loan was better to keep annual costs as low as possible. **Motion to approve a micro bond application to Minnesota Rural Water Association for a period of 10 years for the Rajala lift station project by Boone, seconded by Francisco.** In further discussion, Mann stated that he was concerned about taking on debt for a project that is perhaps more of a routine maintenance item, especially while considering the City's existing debt load. He asked the other Council members to remain aware of these obligations. Boone called for a vote and the **motion carried unanimously.**

Meyer next updated the Council on the LRIP Ash Street/Rajala Mill Rd reconstruction project. He stated that WSN is currently working with David Drown on the best funding option for the City's share of this project. The Council will be required to hold a public hearing for any option that is used.

Skating Rink Snow Removal: As directed at the last meeting, an advertisement for skating rink snow removal was posted. An offer of volunteer service was received. The Public Works Department feels they can get it done with the support of a volunteer.

Resolution 2019-16: Contracting with an Elected Official: Mayor Boone stepped down from his Mayor seat and Acting Mayor Francisco ran this portion of the meeting. At the last meeting, the Council discussed allowing any interested city staff or elected officials to use a portion of their training budget to attend training in Mental Health First Aid which Boone has been trained to provide. The Clerk explained that the Council must pass this resolution in order to legally contract with Boone for services since he is an elected official. Boone will also be required to sign an Affidavit of Official Interest in Claim. **Motion to approve Resolution 2019-16 by Mann, seconded by Francisco, MCU** (with Boone not voting). Boone returned to his Mayor seat after this item was concluded.

Resolution 2019-17: Final Budget and Levy for 2020: Motion to approve Resolution 2019-17 by Mann, seconded by Gustafson, MCU.

Softball Field – MN Power Quote: The Clerk shared a quote from Minnesota Power for running electric service to the softball field location in the amount of \$23,100. The Council agreed this was not affordable. The Clerk was directed to research solar power options.

NEW BUSINESS

2019-2021 Audit Engagement Letter: A letter was received from Clifton-Larson-Allen outlining a three-year proposal for annual auditing services. The cost of the annual audit would increase 7%, 3% and 4% respectively each of the next three years. **Motion by Boone to request that CLA perform the audit at the first year 7% increase rate for each of the next three years, seconded by Mann, MCU.**

OTHER

Telecommuter Forward: Boone was contacted by Representative Julie Sandstede's office about the "Telecommuter Forward" bill she authored to highlight communities where there is forward thinking about telecommuters. Boone explained that we do not have to have a certain level of broadband speed in order to be designated as a "Telecommuter Forward" community. He provided a sample resolution the Council would need to pass in order to participate in the program. It was determined that Boone should meet with the Clerk to determine if the items outlined in the resolution were feasible for Bigfork at this time and to sign up for it if so. The Council will pass the necessary resolution at the December meeting if it is determined Bigfork should participate.

Painting and TV Placement: Boone requested input on placement of two TVs on the north wall of the main meeting room. It was determined to move the existing painting down and evenly space the TVs on either side of it.

Motion to adjourn by Mann at 6:21 p.m., seconded by Gustafson, MCU.

Angela L. Storlie
City Clerk/Treasurer