

City of Bigfork
Regular City Council Meeting
October 16, 2023
5:30 p.m.

Members Present: Bryan Boone, Sarah Scheff, Ben Maxa, Jerry Denny
Members Absent: Kristi Gustafson
Also Present: Gene Rajala, Tim Johnson, Aaron Gould, Dan Manick, Sarah Stone, Sally Sedgwick,

Mayor Boone called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

Reverend Boone opened with a prayer.

The pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Bryan Boone spoke regarding council member Kristi Gustafson's passing. There was a moment of silence for Kristi Gustafson.

The Public Forum was opened.

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

Motion by Maxa to approve the agenda, seconded by Denny, motion carried unanimously (MCU).

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

1. Minutes of the September 12, 2023, Regular City Council meeting,
2. City Clerk's office report for September 2023,
3. Financial report for September 2023,
4. Public Works Department Report for September 2023,
5. Payroll and timecards for September 1, 2023, September 15, 2023, and September 29, 2023, regular payrolls, in the amount of \$12,358.00
6. Claims paid from September 2023, in the amount of \$5,471.01 and claims for payment in the amount of \$97,129.35
7. Resolution 2023-15: Polling Place Designation for 2024

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Blandin Foundation Community Development Grant: Benches, Canoe Landing, City Beach: The City has been working on spending down the funds, the canoe landing has been completed. Jeff Powell Excavating is also currently working on a new retaining wall at the City Beach. Melissa has

provided a quote for benches throughout the city, at the canoe landing, and at the beach. Outdoor fitness equipment for the river walk trail will be ordered by Tim Johnson. The Lion's Club Gun range is looking for funds for a new shed and updating the equipment out there such as shooting benches, shooting tables, and targets. The high school shop is looking at building a 16x20 ft shed at the range and are looking for some funds to help purchase the materials needed to build this for the community. Materials for the walk bridge will also be purchased with these fund. Tim, Bryan and Melissa met prior to the City Council meeting to discuss the grant. So far the City has about \$96,340.15 remaining. Jeff Powell Excavating has quoted the City \$27,875 for the canoe landing retaining walls, and \$8,800. Once those have been paid that leaves the city with \$59,665.15. The City is waiting for a bill from Jeff Powell on the canoe landing along with the retaining wall at the City Beach. With the remaining funds the City would purchase up to \$12,000 for new benches throughout the city, these will be ordered along with the outdoor fitness equipment. \$4,000.00 was spent towards a new plow for the Public Works department for maintaining the walk trail.

Sarah Stone with EOWSKI was moved up the agenda due to possibly donating some of the funds to EOWSKI.

EOWSKI: River Walk Trail & Donation Request: Sarah stone presented to the council regarding grooming the riverwalk trail for multiuse during the winter. EOWSKI is looking for funds to purchase the equipment that would be needed to groom the trail, this would include a newer snowmobile to pull their grooming attachment. They are looking at raising \$5,000-\$10,000. The current snowmobile they have is old and not reliable and is currently used only at Scenic State Park for their trails. They have about \$1,000-\$2,000 in their account that they need for routine maintenance and cannot spend. All of their groomers and workers are volunteers only. EOWSKI is also looking at different funding options but has currently not received any for this purpose. Sarah did reach out to the City of Duluth regarding their recreational trails for some input on how the trials are maintained and the City of Duluth did send an email reply back stating that grooming snow on top of paved trail is an acceptable, and standard practice which is utilized by some of the largest land managing agencies in the state. As Trail Coordinator for the City of Duluth Parks and Recreation, he can confidently say that we have no concerns with operating grooming equipment on paved or gravel surfaced trails. EOWSKI is looking to purchase a snowmobile by December, so the trails are good to use for the winter. EOWSKI is a 5013C nonprofit so they function on donations and would appreciate any help the city is willing to offer. EOWSKI serves much of the community ranging from all ages. Packed snow is actually less slippery than a plowed trail that has the opportunity to melt and refreeze. Community member Gene Rajala stated that he prefers to walk on a groomed trail because it isn't as icy, and his boots have more grip on the packed snow. Bryan Boone asked Tim Johnson his thoughts on this. Tim responded saying that the multiuse trail would be beneficial to the Community of Bigfork. It presents more opportunities for the public to get active during the winter months. Aaron Gould the Public Works Manager stated that he has absolutely no issues with EOWSKI grooming the trail. Ben asked Tim if the Blandin Funds could be used for EOWSKI's snowmobile purchase, to which he replied that they could be. **Motion by Boone to approve of the plan for Blandin funds including: \$12,000.00 towards benches, \$6,500.00 towards the lion's club gun range, \$5,000.00**

towards EOWSKI, \$6,100.00 towards lumber and materials of the pedestrian bridge, any left-over funds can be spent according to Tim, Melissa, and Bryan's discretion, seconded by Maxa, and MCU.

School Project Update: A ribbon cutting ceremony will be coming up, stay tuned for when that is.

NEW BUSINESS

Sewer Rate Agreement for JBS Holdings, LLC: Upon discussion with Lee Ramsey of JBS Holdings, LLC, Mayor Boone presented Lee with a monthly sewer rate of \$150.00. \$100.00 to cover sewer usage for the next year. \$50.00 to cover water sample costs of the mound system. The City understands at this time that the building is not being used to its full capacity. Lowering of the monthly utility rate to \$150.00 per month, and cost-sharing with JBS Holdings on any Sewer Mound maintenance was discussed between Mayor Bryan Boone and Lee Ramsey. Cost sharing for any Sewer Mound maintenance will be 2/3rds the City of Bigfork's Responsibility and 1/3rd JBS Holdings, LLC's responsibility. This agreement would be valid for 6 months then the City Council will revisit it. **Motion to accept the sewer rate agreement with JBS Holdings, LLC for 6 months by Maxa, seconded by Scheff, and MCU.**

Council Member Payout: Bryan Boone would like to grant Krisit Gustafson's council payout to her family after her passing. **Motion to approve payout of Kristi's council pay by Maxa, seconded by Scheff, and MCU.**

Donation of Old TV to Fire Department: Bryan Boone presented the idea of donating one of the City's old TVs to the Fire Department after he and Melissa attended their yearly relief association meeting. Their TV is very small and was hard for members to see. **Motion to donate TV to Fire Department by Denny, seconded by Scheff, and MCU.**

OTHER/ ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next meeting is November 14, 2023, at 5:30 PM at Bigfork City Hall

IUOE Local 49 Negotiations to Follow meeting tonight.

Aaron Gould Vacation Request for November 7-9, 2023

Motion to adjourn at 6:32 p.m. by Maxa, seconded by Denny, and MCU.

Melissa J. Grover

City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved at the regular meeting held on
November 14, 2023

Mayor