

City of Bigfork
Regular City Council Meeting
October 8, 2020
5:30 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Bryan Boone, David Mann, and Paul Gustafson

Members Absent: Ben Maxa and Drew Francisco

Also Present: Sally Sedgwick, Moriah Lewis, Curt Meyer

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the Public Forum was opened. Moriah Lewis addressed the Council regarding an administrative fine received for a dog-at-large violation. Ms. Lewis stated that she was contesting the fine because she never received notice of the new ordinance requirements. She has since registered her dog with the City. Boone recommended that the fine be waived and the notice of violation be amended to a first warning as defined by the ordinance. As no one else wished to address the Council, the public forum was closed.

Motion to approve the agenda by Mann, seconded by Gustafson, motion carried unanimously, MCU.

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

- 1. minutes of the September 10, 2020 regular City Council meeting,***
- 2. City Clerk's office report for September 2020,***
- 3. financial report for September 2020,***
- 4. Public Works Department report for September 2020,***
- 5. payroll and timecards for September 18 and October 2 regular payrolls in the amount of \$6,119.77***
- 6. claims paid in the amount of \$4,888.88 and claims for payment in the amount of \$59,085.81***

Tamara Lowney: Tamara Lowney with Itasca Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) joined the meeting virtually and addressed the Council regarding a regional manufacturing company's interest in expanding into the e2ip facility. Since e2ip's announcement that they would be closing, IEDC has been working to recruit a new business to come in. Ms. Lowney is working on an incentive package to offer this company and requested that the Council contribute some of its CARES Act funding. Since e2ip has stated they are closing this plant because of COVID-19, this is an eligible use of CARES Act funds. At the prior meeting, the Council had discussed splitting any remaining funds between the Bigfork Ambulance Service and the local Meals on Wheels program. Bigfork Ambulance recently received CARES funding of its own and communicated that City funds

should be used elsewhere. **Motion by Boone, seconded by Mann to contribute \$8,500 of CARES Act funding toward this incentive to recruit a new business into the community, MCU.** The Council intends to donate to Meals on Wheels as well.

Ms. Lowney requested that the Council consider a second action to add to the incentive package, waiver or decrease of the monthly sewer charge to the building. **Motion by Mann to offer the incoming business a total incentive of up to \$6,500 in sewer rate savings over a period of two years, seconded by Boone, MCU.** The Clerk will work with the Public Works Department to determine the best structure for this incentive.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Engineering Update: Curt Meyer with Widseth Engineering informed the Council that State review of the plans for the Ash Street/Rajala Mill Road project is complete and Itasca County is now reviewing. Widseth recommends bidding the project this Fall. They have seen good bid results due to contractors being anxious to line up spring work. **Motion by Mann to authorize Widseth to move forward with bidding contingent upon State and County approval of the construction plans, seconded by Gustafson, MCU.**

Meyer reviewed that the Council received a report about a year ago that the water tower would be due for recoating within the next few years. Widseth added this to the State's Project Priority List which is the first step in obtaining funding. He anticipates working with their funding specialist to have documents ready to bid this project in the Fall of 2021. He reviewed the projected cost of \$350,000 to \$400,000. The cost increases significantly each year it is put off as deterioration spreads.

Ed Zabinski was moved to this point in the agenda.

Resolution 2020-15 – Itasca Waters Commitment: Zabinski was present representing Itasca Waters, a group focusing on water quality issues in Itasca County. Zabinski explained that most people in Itasca County would say we have plenty of clean water, and we do. Itasca Waters recognizes the need to work to keep it that way. They are requesting a resolution from cities and townships in the County in support of the "Itasca Clean Water Commitment". Boone had concerns that the resolution could commit the City to a future action such as seeking legislation or regulations that would cost cities and taxpayers. The Resolution was tabled until the November meeting.

Airport Hunting: The Clerk provided a map showing allowable hunting area at the airport and delineating the safety zones surrounding the runway and airport buildings. The Council discussed whether it was worth having the property open to public hunting. The Council felt that airport property is public, similar to State and Federal property, and should remain open. They will evaluate how this hunting season goes.

City Hall Sound System: As discussed at the last meeting, an updated quote on an audio setup for City Hall was obtained. The total cost is \$2,505.78. **Motion by Gustafson to accept the quote and use excess TIF revenue for the cost, seconded by Mann, MCU.** The Clerk reminded the Council that the rest of the excess TIF revenue would be transferred to the general investment fund.

Motion to adjourn by Mann at 6:48 p.m., seconded by Gustafson, MCU.