

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF BIG FALLS, COUNTY OF KOOCHICHING, STATE OF MINNESOTA, INCLUDING ALL ACCOUNTS SUBMITTED BY SAID COUNCIL.

August 12, 2019

The regular meeting of the Big Falls City Council was called to order at 7 p.m. by Mayor Marta Lindemanis. Members present were Shawn Pritchard, Ken Warner and Ken Kennedy. Absent was Jeff Oehlerking.

Additions. The Car Show and Duck's Unlimited Exempt Gambling Permit request were added to the agenda.

Commissioner's Report. There was no commissioner report this month.

Consent Agenda. The consent agenda was presented with the following items:

- Approval of July Minutes
- Approval of July Financial Reports
- Approve Temporary On-Sale License for Pine Island Ducks Unlimited
- Adopt Resolution 2019-06, A Resolution Acknowledging a Donation from North Star Electric Operation Round Up for \$500 for Fire Department, to be used to purchase a 4-Gas Meter.
- Approve Building Permit for River of God Church

There was a motion by Warner to approve the consent agenda. Second by Pritchard. The motion carried.

Vacation Hearing. The council opened the meeting for hearing comments on the alley vacation petition received at the June meeting. Dale Erickson, one of the petitioners, was present for the hearing. It was noted that all publishing and notification requirements have been met. There were no public comments concerning the proposed vacation of the portion of alley in Block 1 of Riverside Addition to Big Falls, lying between Lots 1-4 on the east and 13-16 on the west. Discussion followed. *There was a motion by Warner to adopt Resolution 2019-05, A Resolution Vacating a Portion of an Alley Upon Petition of A Majority of Abutting Landowners.* There was a second to the motion by Pritchard. The motion carried with all in favor. A notice of completion was reviewed and signed by the Mayor and Vice Mayor.

Disbursements and Payroll. The disbursements and payroll reports were reviewed. *There was a motion by Pritchard to approve disbursements in the amount of \$61,026.77, check #17565 – 17631, and ACH 17268E-17292E and July payroll.* Second by Warner. Motion carried.

Duck's Unlimited Permit. The council considered a request by Pine Island Duck's Unlimited for a one-day Exempt Gambling Permit for the Banquet in October. *There was a motion by Kennedy to approve an Exempt Gambling Permit for Pine Island Duck's Unlimited for October 5th.* Second by Warner, with Shawn Pritchard abstaining and Marta Lindemanis voting Aye. Motion carried.

Liquor Report. Linda Dey was present for a report. No quotes have been received for the air conditioning project. The council approved Leaves of Absence for Logan Pritchard and Angel Teston for attending college. David Schelby was hired as a bartender and janitor. Leslie Moe will be hired as a back-up cleaner, noting that due to her age she must have supervision while working. Linda reported that she incurred 120 hours of overtime during the 3 months of Carol Burmeister's leave. The council noted that it is an exempt position, but that due to a shortage of bartenders she has had to covers many shifts. *There was a motion by Warner to pay 80 hours of Overtime and bank 40 as comp time.* There was a second by Pritchard. The motion carried with all in favor. *There was a motion to approve the liquor report by Pritchard.* Second by Kennedy. Motion carried.

Fire/EMS. Bill Pihlaja was present for a report. He reported that a public meeting was held prior to the council meeting at the fire hall for public comment on the proposed budget. No members of the public attended. The council reviewed the proposed budget and levy for 2020. The budget would set the levy at \$12,600, which is a \$1,550 decrease from the prior year. *There was a motion by Pritchard to adopt Resolution 2019-07, A Resolution to Approve the Fire Taxing District Levy by the City of Big Falls Fire Department.* There was a second to the motion by Warner. The motion carried with all in favor. The brat feed will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 11th. There has been on-going work to get the tower

and siren set up and operating. The council approved for the fire department to purchase a laptop. Record retention requirements were discussed. The clerk will forward a copy to the fire department. *There was a motion by Pritchard to approve the Fire Report. Second by Warner. Motion carried.*

Maintenance Report. Terry Baird was not present for a report.

Clerks Report. The clerk presented a Tax Levy Meeting Notice from ARDC. A complaint concerning the DNR river landings was reviewed. The council would like the clerk to contact the DNR to see if there could be increased maintenance on those sites. The clerk reported that a local weather watcher inquired about how he should handle severe weather sightings in the absence of a tornado siren. The council feels that the Koochiching County Sheriff's phone warning system and persons watching radar on their own phones and TVs should be sufficient. The council noted the great improvement of painting the old fire hall, and approved to send a thank you and gift certificate to LouAnn Abendroth for her volunteer work. *There was a motion to approve the clerk's report by Pritchard. Second by Kennedy. Motion carried.*

Car Show. Heidi Watson was present to address the council concerning the upcoming car show in Big Falls. The council approved to block off Bigfork Ave S from the highway to the laundromat using the 4th of July barriers. Heidi will notify the residents in the area involved.

Revolving/SCDP Loans. The council reviewed all of the Revolving and SCDP loan accounts. Second notices are to be sent informing past due borrowers that further collection actions may be taken, up to and including foreclosure proceedings.

Sunview Apartments. A response letter from Sunview Apartments was reviewed. Their management is working with USDA RD to try to find funding for much needed improvements. The clerk noted that a USDA RD representative talked with her concerning loan/grant opportunities that may be available for the apartments. At some point, the city may be asked to help in the process by trying to apply for a Small Cities Grant for multi-family housing.

2020 General Fund Budget. The clerk presented a rough draft budget and levy for the council to review and comment on. A final "Preliminary" budget and resolution will be brought to the council at the September meeting.

Campground Project. The council reviewed the notes and decisions made at the July campground committee meeting. The SHPO response letter to the Phase II archaeological report was reviewed and discussed. The council approved to go with "Plan B" for the shower house and campsite locations, as SHPO approved that plan without requiring a Phase III dig. This plan will still require some monitoring by an archaeologist during digging phases of the project. The council reviewed quotes for the Hazardous Materials Assessment needed before demo can be completed on the old house. The project will be completed by the Braun Intertec, with the lowest quote of \$2,080. WSN is working on the bid documents to get the clearing and grubbing done yet this fall, with the remaining full contract bid to be let sometime in November or December.

Rest Area. The Mayor reported that she has set up a meeting with Representative Rob Ecklund and MN DOT to discuss the feasibility of a rest area located along highway 71 in Big Falls. This meeting will be held on August 27th at 1 p.m. in the city office.

The next regular meeting is set for Monday, September 9th at 7 p.m.

There was a motion to adjourn by Pritchard. Second by Warner. Motion carried. Adjourned.

Marta Lindemanis, Mayor

Joan Nelson, City Clerk