

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

June 10, 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, Jeff Oehlerking and Ken Kennedy.

Additions. A building permit request, Housing Discussion and a Well Head Protection Plan Extension were added to the agenda.

Commissioner's Report. There was no commissioner report this month. The council discussed the difficulties the county is having with hiring an engineer.

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

- Approval of May Minutes
- Approval of May Financial Reports
- Approve 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks Display Permit
- Approve Big Falls Lions Club 4<sup>th</sup> of July Off-Site Gambling Permit for Raffle at the City Ball Park
- Acknowledge notification of Northeast MN HOME Consortium Joint Powers Agreement renewal

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

Building Permit. The council reviewed an application for a building permit from Pete Mai. *There was a motion by Warner to deny approval, until questions can be addressed and an inspection of plans can be made by Terry Baird, with approval to be granted if plans meet with placement in respect to sewer lines and plans must include a finished exterior. Second by Oehlerking. Motion carried with all in favor.*

Disbursements and Payroll. The disbursements and payroll reports were reviewed. *There was a motion by Pritchard to approve disbursements in the amount of \$62,174.45, check #17442 – 17506, and ACH 17235E-17250E and May payroll. Second by Oehlerking. Motion carried. There was a motion by Pritchard to approve payment to Maggert Machine in the amount of \$103.00. Second by Warner. The motion carried with Kennedy abstaining.*

Sunview Apartments. Lorraine Nygaard was present to ask if the council has heard any updates on the prior complaints concerning the apartments. The council would like the clerk to send a letter to the management company, to hear what complaints they have received, and their plans to address the issues.

Campground Project. The council discussed the small riverside cabin. It was noted that the previous owners tried to sell it with no interest. It was further noted that it would save money on demo if the city gave it away. *There was a motion by Warner to advertise the small riverside cabin as "Free – Must Move it Yourself by August 1<sup>st</sup>." Second to the motion by Pritchard. Motion carried with all in favor. The council discussed the campground committee meeting notes. A "Plan B" has been developed for the location of the new restroom facility to submit to SHPO in the event that they will not approve the original location. It was noted that a second option sent in at the same time as the original is a good idea, as SHPO can review both in the same 30-day time period. The carry-in access site was discussed. After a meeting with the DNR, the committee decided that the city will construct the site without assistance from the DNR. A gravel/rock/fabric ramp with bottom retaining brace can be installed above ground, with no soil disruption.*

Liquor Report. Linda Dey was present for a report. A locked cardboard recycling container has been placed at the liquor store. A recent inventory was conducted, with very good results. Linda will contact Greg Thompson about staining the front porch. The ramp/deck project has been delayed due to issues with the contractor's license. Linda will call other contractors to get the project completed. The council approved for Linda to bank any overtime until Carol returns from her leave of absence. *There was a motion to approve the liquor report by Pritchard. Second by Kennedy. Motion carried.*

Fire/EMS. There was no report this month.

Maintenance Report. Terry Baird was present for a report. The radio tower has been installed, and Bruce Grotberg has been contacted to complete the antenna. Terry brought up the issue of heavy truck traffic on several roads in town, and his concerns for the effect on the blacktop. Shawn Pritchard will talk with the truck drivers to ask that they limit usage to one roadway. *There was a motion to approve the maintenance report by Warner. Second by Oehlerking. Motion carried.*

Clerks Report. The council approved to ask CERC to have kids rake the cemetery again this year with a \$250 payment for acceptable work. The issue of security cameras at the campground and community building was discussed. The council approved the clerk's recommendations.

Policy. The council reviewed a proposed policy change. The Drug Free Work Place Policy would now include language that added alcohol to the provisions, and stated that drinking alcohol while on duty would be a violation of city policy. *There was a motion by Pritchard to approve the amended city Drug Free Work Place Policy. Second by Kennedy. Motion carried.*

Wellhead Protection. Due to an extended sick leave by the city's technical specialist with MN Department of Health, the city will not be able to meet the Wellhead Protection Plan Amendment deadline. *There was a motion to approve an extension request by Pritchard. Second by Warner. Motion carried.*

State Demographer. The council reviewed the 2018 State Demographer's Population estimates. The population is listed at 210 with 124 households.

Rest Area. Marta Lindemanis reported that she has been talking with Rob Ecklund about the possibility of the State building a rest/truck stop along highway 71 near the old depot site. She will update the council on any progress for this idea.

The next regular meeting is set for Monday, July 8th at 7 p.m.

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

---

Marta Lindemanis, Mayor

---

Joan Nelson, City Clerk