

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 8, 2020

The regular meeting of the Big Falls City Council was called to order at 7 p.m. by Mayor Marta Lindemanis. Members present were Ken Warner, Shawn Pritchard, Ken Kennedy and Jeff Oehlerking. Participating via Web-Ex were Wayne Skoe, Ron Jasmer and Stephen Rose. Members of the public were notified of the option to monitor the meeting electronically.

Additions. The following items were added to the agenda: State Demographers Population Estimates and the Fitness Center. A building permit application for Pete Mai was added to the consent agenda.

Commissioner's Report. Wayne Skoe was present via web-ex to give a report concerning county business. The county is currently in the process of re-opening the courthouse.

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

- Approval of May regular and special meeting minutes
- Approval of May Financial Reports
- Approve Building Permits for Adam Galles and Pete Mai

*There was a motion by Pritchard to approve the consent agenda.* Second by Oehlerking. The motion carried with all in favor.

Disbursements and Payroll. The disbursements and payroll reports were reviewed. *There was a motion by Warner to approve disbursements in the amount of \$40,026.11 check #18648-18687 and ACH 17436E-17447E, and May payroll.* Second by Oehlerking. The motion carried with all in favor.

4<sup>th</sup> of July. The council discussed the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks. The Lions Club voted to pay for the fireworks if the city is willing to have the event as a short display only, with no other activities. Each member expressed their opinion and reasons for or against allowing the display. Staff members and others present were also allowed to voice their opinions. It was noted that under the current Governor's Executive Order outdoor gatherings of over 250 people are not permitted, and that gatherings under that amount would be required to implement social distancing practices. Concerns about safety and possibly introducing the virus to our community were noted. Others expressed the need for our community to have something positive, celebrate the national holiday and carry on tradition. *There was a motion by Pritchard to approve allowing a fireworks display on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.* There was a second by Oehlerking. Warner and Kennedy voted nay. Lindemanis voted nay, and the motion failed.

Campground Project. Ron Jasmer and Stephen Rose with WSN were present via Web-Ex to discuss the campground project. Quotes for the electrical contract will be in by this Thursday. A special meeting was set for Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. to review and award the quote, and possible issue the notices to proceed. The removal of the 4 campsites resulted in a \$26,000 deduct from the civil contract. The council agreed to make a modification to reduce the bathroom ceiling height to 9 feet for a \$4,000 savings. The council discussed the restroom closure at the campground due to COVID. It will continue for now, and left is up to staff discretion as to whether or not to open on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Liquor Report. Linda Dey was present for a report. The liquor store will be opening at reduced capacity with indoor and outdoor seating on Wednesday, per the governor's new order. Linda has been working to make sure that everything is ready to safely re-open under the provided guidance. An employee meeting will be held tomorrow morning to review policies. The updated COVID policy was discussed. *There was a motion by Pritchard to approve the Liquor Store COVID Preparedness Policy.* Second by Kennedy. Motion carried. *There was a motion to approve the liquor report by Warner.* Second by Oehlerking. The motion carried.

Fire/EMS. Bill Pihlaja was present for a report. Bruce Grotberg has not yet completed the tower wiring. The compressor install was discussed. *There was a motion by Pritchard to approve the fire report. Second by Warner. The motion carried.*

Maintenance Report. Terry Baird was present for a report. He noted that the city should consider planting trees in the campground when possible, and that there are some available at the city airport that may be able to be transplanted. He is working on setting up the needed continuing training for his water and sewer operator's license. *There was a motion to approve the maintenance report by Warner. Second by Oehlerking. The motion carried with all in favor.*

Clerk's Report. Les Lepisto will be taking on the role of Big Falls representative for KCDA, with Angela Boes as the alternate. The campground reservation system was discussed. The council will allow guests to make their reservations a year in advance, rather the six-month prior rule. *There was a motion to approve the clerk's report by Pritchard. Second by Kennedy. The motion carried with all in favor.*

Fitness Center. The fitness center will be allowed to open on Wednesday at 25% capacity, which would be 2 people at a time. The city would provide normal cleaning, but members will be required to sanitize equipment prior to and after use. A COVID plan for the fitness center will be presented at the special meeting on Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. *There was a motion by Oehlerking to re-open the Fitness Center under Industry Guidelines. Second to the motion by Warner. The motion carried with all in favor.*

State Demographer. The council reviewed the annual estimates as presented by the State Demographer: Population 205, Households 122. These are down from last year's 210 and 124, respectively.

The next regular meeting is set for Monday, July 13, 2020 at 7 p.m. in the Legion Room.  
There was a motion to adjourn by Warner. Second by Oehlerking. The motion carried with all in favor.

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Marta Lindemanis, Mayor

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Joan Nelson, City Clerk