

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

September 14, 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.

Additions. There were no additions to the agenda.

Commissioner's Report. Wayne Skoe was not present for a report due to a conflicting meeting.

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

- Approval of August regular minutes
- Approval of August Financial Reports

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

Disbursements and Payroll. The disbursements and payroll reports were reviewed, including pay estimate #2 from LinnCo in the amount of \$97,280.47. *There was a motion by Pritchard to approve disbursements in the amount of \$155,596.43 check #18782-18840 and ACH 17477E-17488E, and August payroll. Second by Oehlerking. The motion carried with all in favor.*

COVID. The council approved a detailed list of expenses charged to the COVID Cares Fund for the month. *There was a motion by Kennedy to approve the expenditures of \$2,347.98 charged to the CARES fund, noting that all items were necessary for public health measures. Second to the motion by Warner. The motion carried with all in favor.*

Liquor Report. Linda Dey was present for a report. The Lions Club has offered to donate funds to purchase a new ice freezer. The Halloween party was discussed. It is hard to plan at this point, as it is unknown what COVID regulations will be in place at that time. No action was taken at this time. The walk-in cooler floor was discussed again. Options to try to fix or rebuild just the floor were talked about. Financially, it would be difficult to build an addition to house a new, larger walk in. The council would like to first look into the costs and possibilities to just fix the existing floor for now. *There was a motion to approve the liquor report by Warner. Second by Pritchard. The motion carried.*

Fire/EMS. Bill Pihlaja was present for a report. One new member joined the department last month. *There was a motion by Pritchard to approve the fire report. Second by Kennedy. Motion carried.*

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

Clerk's Report. The clerk reported that Helen Thran has contacted the city to offer to donate trees from her father's land to place in the campground, or if the trees do not work, she would contribute financially. The clerk will contact Ms. Thran when the project is complete, and it is known where trees will need to be placed. The council approved for Falls Hunger Coalition to place a small food "pantry" in the hallway area of the community building. The council approved for the clerk to use the city office as a library check out/in, so that there will be more access to the public. A League of MN meeting for nearby cities will be held in Big Falls on September 30<sup>th</sup> in the gym, with social distancing. *There was a motion to approve the clerk's report by Oehlerking. Second by Pritchard. The motion carried with all in favor.*

Campground Project. Stephen Rose was present via Web-ex for a project update. It appears as though it is all on schedule. It has been found that the original specs were substantially short of required fill. LinnCo is utilizing fill from the city pits, but it may be up to a \$25,000 add-on for additional hauling, labor and spreading. They are working to try to keep fill levels as low as possible. The restroom building construction should get underway this week.

2021 Budget and Levy. The council reviewed a draft 2021 Preliminary General Fund Budget and Levy with total revenues and expenditures of \$217,650.00. This proposal used the \$33,000 of Small Cities funds received this year as follows: \$12,300 in the 2021 general budget with \$12,500 in General reserves, and \$8,200 to the water and sewer 2021 budgets. The clerk noted that as of now, it is projected that this revenue could be up to \$61,000 next year. This draft would leave the levy the same as the prior year, and drop the liquor store contribution to \$5,000. *There was a motion by Pritchard to adopt Resolution 2020-06, Adopting the Preliminary General Fund Budget for 2021 and Setting the Tax Levy Collectible in 2021.* There was a second to the motion by Kennedy. The motion carried with all in favor.

Frontier Communications. The council reviewed a plan from Frontier Communications for placement of new buried fiber cable in a small area. *There was a motion by Warner to approve Frontier Communication Plans for fiber cable.* Second by Pritchard. The motion carried.

The next regular meeting is set for Tuesday, October 13th, 2020 at 7 p.m. in the Legion Room. The date change is due to the holiday on Monday.

There was a motion to adjourn by Pritchard. Second by Kennedy. The motion carried with all in favor.

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Marta Lindemanis, Mayor

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Joan Nelson, City Clerk