

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

July 9, 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. The CERC annual budget, construction company parking and door lettering 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 June Minutes
- Approval of June Financial Reports
- Approve Annual Waiver Form – Waiving the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by MN Statutes 466.04 to the extent of the limits of the liability coverage obtained from LMCIT.
- Approve cemetery lot agreement for Dave Nordstrom

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

Vacation Petition. A petition was received requesting a vacation of a portion of alley between Bigfork Avenue and Sturgeon Avenue, lying south of George Street. *There was a motion by Pritchard to adopt Resolution 2019-04, A Resolution Declaring Sufficiency of Petition and Setting a Public Hearing on a Vacation Commenced by A Petition of a Majority of Abutting Landowners.* There was a second to the motion by Oehlerking. The motion carried with all in favor. The hearing will take place at the next council meeting on August 12th at 7 p.m.

Disbursements and Payroll. The disbursements and payroll reports were reviewed. *There was a motion by Pritchard to approve disbursements in the amount of \$53,913.68, check #17507 – 17564, and ACH 17251E-17267E and June payroll. Second by Warner. Motion carried.*

Liquor Report. Linda Dey was present for a report. Christmas in July has been planned with an Ugly Sweater Contest. A band has been booked at a cost of \$500 for August 17th, which is the car show weekend. A DJ has been booked for Labor Day at a cost of \$400. McClellan Construction will take on the ramp project, but we still need to get a contract and time frame. The council approve the purchase of a dehumidifier. The air conditioning was discussed. North Star Electric has informed the city that the current system is wired into the off-peak panel and paying the off-peak rate. This is no longer acceptable. The city must either install a new panel and pay stand electric rate, or install a heat pump mini-split system to keep paying the off-peak rate. Discussion followed as to the efficiency of units, costs and rebates. Terry will bring estimates from at least two contractors to the next meeting. The council discussed happy hours, and agreed to try a daily happy hour from 6-7. There was a discussion concerning minors in the liquor store over the 4th of July and if any exceptions should be made. The council agreed that the only reason minors are allowed in at other times of the year is for eating, and that there are other options on the 4th. It was noted that there are options outside for food, water, pop and restrooms. The council is understanding of certain situations, but noted that once one exception is made, it is hard to “draw the line” and enforce it with other customers. It is also very hard for bartenders to try to monitor the crowd and keep an eye on minors when it is that busy. The council agreed to stand by the rule that there will be no minors in the liquor store after 5 p.m. on the 3rd and not at all on the 4th. *There was a motion to approve the liquor report by Pritchard. Second by Oehlerking. Motion carried.*

Fire/EMS. Bill Pihlaja was present for a report. The antenna installation was discussed. The possibility of running the cable underground will be looked into. There was an incident with setting off fireworks this year, with a box going off on the ground. There were no injuries or property damage. Terry Baird is going to look into setting off the boxes electronically next year to improve safety. *There was a motion by Warner to approve the Fire Report. Second by Oehlerking. Motion carried.*

Maintenance Report. Terry Baird was present for a report. There has been some cars and wheelers tearing up the airport runway. The council agreed that cameras can be installed and to pursue prosecuting offenders. The clerk will look into the possibility of grant funding for fencing. The supplies needed to mount the weather siren have been purchased and it should be installed soon. Terry would like to have a second person as a licensed fireworks operator. The council agreed, and Terry will ask fire department members if they are interested. The council approved to place lettering on the glass front door of the community building stating "Clinic, City Office, Fitness Center." There was a discussion concerning the construction crew parking equipment on city land. Terry had approved for them to park there, and they have left the grounds in perfect condition. The council agreed that there will be no charge for them to park there. *There was a motion to approve the maintenance report by Pritchard. Second by Kennedy. Motion carried.*

Clerks Report. The DNR is "hoping" to get the closed 4-wheeler trail over the bridge opened yet this summer. They stated that they are still working through wetland issues and landowner permission. They are planning to make the winter detour hard enough for summer use. The clerk reported that the campground host would like a golf cart for use for posting reservations and other tasks. The council said they will consider it when the campground is expanded. The cabin on the campground property has been removed. The council approved to dispose of any remaining miscellaneous property for free to whomever requests it. A City-Wide garage sale will be held on the same weekend as the car show. A list of cemetery donations received this year was reviewed. *There was a motion to approve the clerk's report by Warner. Second by Pritchard.*

CERC Budget. The council reviewed the 2020 CERC budget. *There was a motion by Pritchard to approve the 2020 CERC Budget with revenues and expenditures of \$4,050.00. Second by Oehlerking. Motion carried.*

Campground Project. The council reviewed a list from the architect of building details to be included in the bid documents. A campground committee meeting will be held next week to go over final details. SHPO has not yet responded to the archaeological report. *There was a motion by Pritchard to approve a Deed Restriction to be recorded per the MN DNR Grant Contract. Second to the motion by Oehlerking. The motion carried with all in favor.*

Wage Review. The council discussed the wage of the part-time seasonal maintenance person. *There was a motion by Pritchard to set the wage at \$12.15 per hour, retro-active to the start of this season. Second to the motion by Oehlerking. Motion carried.*

The next regular meeting is set for Monday, August 12th at 7 p.m.

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

Marta Lindemanis, Mayor

Joan Nelson, City Clerk