

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

March 9, 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. Koochiching County Soil & Water and City Timber Sales were added to the agenda.

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

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

- Approval of February regular and special meeting minutes
- Approval of February Financial Reports

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

Disbursements and Payroll. The disbursements and payroll reports were reviewed. *There was a motion by Pritchard to approve disbursements in the amount of \$76,322.13 check #18495-18570 and ACH 17396E-17409E, and February payroll. Second by Kennedy. Motion carried.*

Koochiching Soil & Water. Jolen Simon was present to address the council. She works with the county watershed district and MPCA. They would like to plan a Bigfork River Water Celebration at the campground pavilion. This would be to educate the public and to celebrate the clean waters of the Bigfork River. It would include a free public picnic, games for kids and informational booths. The council approved the park use. She will keep the city informed of dates and plans.

Campground Project. The city approved an easement from the campground land to the city sanitary system for the construction of the sewer line leading from the old shower house to the new building. The clerk reported that as of now, WSN is on track to re-bid the shower building April 7th. The old log shed was discussed, including the known history, and whether or not there is a good use for it in the future. The cost of restoring it was also discussed. *There was a motion by Pritchard to remove the cabin. Second by Kennedy. The motion carried with all in favor.*

Liquor Report. Linda Dey was present for a report. She asked the council about installing a steel tip dart board. The insurance company does not have a problem with it, but safety concerns were discussed. The council left it up to the manager's discretion. New products are being introduced to try to boost sales. The keg cooler was repaired at a cost of \$795. The employee benefit of one after shift drink was discussed. The council stated that any bartender after-shift drink should be limited to a \$4 drink. The only other free beverage would be fountain pop – with energy drinks and specialty beverages expressly prohibited. The annual financial statement was discussed concerning the net loss. Ideas to increase revenues and cut expenses were discussed. The council approved to deposit the TruStar patronage dividend to the liquor fund this year to cover the cost of the new server. *There was a motion by Warner to approve the liquor report. Second by Oehlerking. Motion carried.*

Fire/EMS. Bill Pihlaja was present for a report. He drove to Wisconsin to inspect a fire truck and it was purchased – a 1996 Spartan. Bill stated that it was in very good condition. It will be delivered next week. The old truck will need to be sold as soon as possible, but will more than likely only be sold to a private party, as there is no market for that old of truck in any fire department. Bill and the clerk will work to find a market to advertise in. The department will keep certain items from the old truck, such as the emergency lights. *There was a motion by Pritchard to approve the fire report. Second by Kennedy. Motion carried.*

Maintenance Report. Terry Baird was present for a report. He has been working on building some new fire pits for the campground. He noted that the new MPCA General Permit for the sewer pond has been received. *There was a motion to approve the maintenance report by Warner. Second by Oehlerking. Motion carried.*

Clerk's Report. The clerk noted that the county is making an effort to widely publicize the importance of the upcoming census. The council approved for the clerk to attend a LMCIT workshop in Bemidji. The Littlefork Medical Center Taxing District rebate was discussed. The balance in the fund is \$5400.00. The council would like it to stay in that fund for now, until a final use is determined. The council approved for the clerk to act as an alternate KEDA member for Mike Hanson. Meeting attendance would be during day hours, but only on the occasion of Mr. Hanson's absence. *There was a motion to approve the clerk's report by Warner. Second by Pritchard. Motion carried.*

Timber Sale. Shawn Pritchard informed the council that Nelson Bros. Logging is cutting a sale abutting mature city timber by the city pit and land leases. They offered to purchase the timber of approximately 100 cords since they are already in the area. Shawn has contacted the County Forestry office to run the lines and handle the sale documents. *There was a motion by Kennedy to approve the timber sale as presented by Pritchard. Second by Oehlerking. The motion carried with all in favor.*

2019 Audit and Financial Report. The council reviewed the Audit and Financial report as prepared by Brady, Martz and Associates. *There was a motion by Pritchard to accept the 2019 report. Second by Warner. Motion carried.*

1st Call/211. The council reviewed a request to help fund the 1st Call for Help/211 service for our area. *There was a motion by Oehlerking to contribute \$100 to 1st Call/211. Second by Pritchard. Motion carried*

The next regular meeting is set for Monday, April 13, 2020 at 7 p.m.

The regular meeting was adjourned to conduct individual employee evaluations for Linda Day, Terry Baird and Joan Nelson. All employees were present and did not exercise their right to have the meeting remain open to the public.

Marta Lindemanis, Mayor

Joan Nelson, City Clerk