

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

August 11, 2014

A Public Hearing was called to order at 7 p.m. to provide information on the Water Project Construction Status. Don Anderson with WSN explained the funding process and administration of the Small Cities grant funds. The project was discussed. *There was a motion by Ken Warner to adjourn the public hearing.* Second by Shawn Pritchard. Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the Big Falls City Council was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Mayor Marta Lindemanis. Members present were Shawn Pritchard, Les Lepisto, Ken Warner and Donna Dauphinais.

Additions. Ducks Unlimited Banquet.

Commissioner Skoe. Mr. Skoe was present. He explained the need for an official survey of the proposed site for the gasification plant. He is working with the County Engineer and Surveyor to find possible grants to do the necessary site studies.

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

- July Regular Meeting Minutes
- July Financials
- Approve annual Waiver of Monetary Limits on Municipal Tort Liability

*There was a motion by Shawn Pritchard to approve the consent agenda.* Second by Les Lepisto. Motion carried.

Disbursements. The disbursements were reviewed. *There was a motion by Donna Dauphinais to approve disbursements in the amount of \$68,618.55, check numbers 14201 to 14266.* Second by Ken Warner. Motion carried.

Ducks Unlimited Banquet. Brent Arnold requested approval of a temporary gambling permit and liquor license for the Ducks Unlimited Banquet to be held on October 4<sup>th</sup> in the community building. *There was a motion by Ken Warner to approve the temporary gambling and liquor license request.* Second by Les Lepisto. Motion carried. *There was a motion by Shawn Pritchard to waive the rent of the community building for the event, with all clean up to be done by the organization.* Second by Ken Warner. Motion carried.

Water Project. The council reviewed the first contractors' partial pay requests as presented by Don Anderson with WSN. *There was a motion by Shawn Pritchard to approve Contract 3 partial pay of \$116, 105.20.* Second by Donna Dauphinais. Motion carried. *There was a motion by Les Lepisto to approve a partial pay request for contract 2 in the amount of \$45,600.00.* Second by Ken Warner. Motion carried. The council discussed the painting of the water tower, and asked Mr. Anderson to review costs of the lettering design with the contractor. The council approved for the exterior colors of the treatment plant to be tan and burgundy – to match the Lions Club Building. The periodic inspector for WSN for this phase of construction will be Keith Falbaum. The contract 3 bids have been advertised again, and the bid opening will be August 26<sup>th</sup>. The council will review and act on the bids at a meeting on either the 26<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup> to be posted as soon as it is set. The council reviewed the Big Falls Section 3 Plan, which will direct employment and economic opportunities generated by HUD financial assistance through the Small Cities Development Grant. *There was a motion to adopt the Big Falls Section 3 Plan by Shawn Pritchard.* Second by Donna Dauphinais. Motion carried.

Liquor Report. Sandy Frye presented plans and costs for a painted mural on the liquor store wall. The cost would be \$700. The council discussed the design and talked about possibly seeking other design ideas. No action was taken on this project. Linda Dey as assistant manager was present for a report. She has been checking on prices for a new beer cooler, as the current one is at least 30 years old and leaks. The cost would be approximately \$2400 from US foods. *There was a motion by Ken Warner to check with Terry Baird to see what he thinks, and to go with his advice and have the purchase approved by the liquor commissioners if he recommended a new cooler.* Second by Donna Dauphinais. Motion carried. Coca Cola Bottling will provide a new pop cooler at no cost. Radio ads and slogan were discussed.

Linda is looking into sweatshirt options. Linda Dey reported that she terminated the employment of Ashlie Fisher due to several missed shifts. The council approved the termination. Dave Wenz has been hired as a part time bartender. *There was a motion by Ken Warner to approve the Liquor Report.* Second by Les Lepisto. Motion carried.

Fire/EMS. Brent Arnold reported that the public hearing for the fire department budget was held at 6:45 prior to the council meeting. No public input was presented. The council reviewed the proposed fire department budget and levy. The total levy would be for \$18,000, which is \$2000 less than the previous year. Total expenditures and revenues would be \$19,100.00. *There was a motion by Shawn Pritchard to adopt Resolution 2014-05, A Resolution to Approve the Fire Taxing District Levy by the City of Big Falls Fire Department.* Second by Ken Warner. Motion carried. The 1<sup>st</sup> Responders will be completing the testing for new members and for the refreshing members. *There was a motion by Donna Dauphinais to approve the Fire/EMS report.* Second by Les Lepisto. Motion carried.

Maintenance Report. The council discussed the community building roof. The engineer took a look at it and feels that it is solid, and not in any immediate need of repair. The council then discussed whether or not to proceed with new drain tiles. The council would like Terry Baird to get three estimates for installing a single layer of tiles with a cistern, to also include installation of a new fuel oil tank.

Clerk's Report. A letter from Shirley Nelson was reviewed concerning the property ordinance violation. The clerk will contact the county to work on abating the property. The 2015 budget and levy was discussed. A preliminary budget will be set at the September meeting. *There was a motion to approve the clerk's report by Shawn Pritchard.* Second by Ken Warner. Motion carried.

Union Contract. Dan Kingsley was present to represent the union contract employees Terrence Baird and Joan Nelson. He presented a preliminary proposal to the council, which included the establishment of a Health Reimbursement Account and an increase to the pension. The council reviewed the wage and benefit history of the employees. *There was a motion by Ken Warner to close the meeting to consider negotiations for the labor proposal.* There was a second by Donna Dauphinais. The motion carried with all in favor. The meeting was closed, with only the council members present for the closed session. The meeting was called back to order and the employees and union representatives re-entered the meeting. The council offered a counterproposal with the following:

1. A 2 ½ year agreement with the renewal dates to coincide with Health Premium Changes – new expiration date of February 28, 2017.
2. Establish a Health Reimbursement Account with the Local 49 Union.
3. \$50 per month contribution to the HRA through February 2015
4. Add \$25 per month to the HRA each year of the agreement
5. Add .25 cents per hour contribution to the Central Pension for each year except the last year of the contract
6. No increase to wages for the term of the contract
7. The health insurance benefit paid by the city not to exceed the current amount plus HRA amounts as set by the contract.

The council called a 10 minute recess.

The meeting was called back to order. The union accepted the counter proposal. *There was a motion by Shawn Pritchard to accept the contract.* Second by Ken Warner. Motion carried. A final contract will be presented to sign at the September meeting.

KCDA. Les Lepisto accepted the city's seat on the KCDA board. The council approved.

Memorial Bench. The family of Janet Severson requested placing a memorial bench in Big Falls. The council approved placing it at the post office, but not permanently attached, so that it could be removed in the winter for plowing. A second option would be at the river near the bridge.

Liquor Manager Position. Kari Lehman was unable to attend the meeting to discuss the status of her employment. The investigator has been in contact with the mayor, and he has informed her that he has more interviews to complete. *There was a motion by Ken Warner to table the review of employment status of Kari Lehman until the investigation is*

*complete.* Second by Donna Dauphinais. Motion carried. The council agreed to have a special meeting after hearing from the investigator, so as to not have to wait another month until the next council meeting.

Resignation. Donna Dauphinais offered her verbal resignation due to moving from the area. *There was a motion by Shawn Pritchard to accept the resignation and declare a vacancy in the council.* Second by Ken Warner. Motion carried. The clerk is to post notice of the vacancy and to invite interested persons to submit a letter of interest to the council by noon on August 25<sup>th</sup>. The vacancy will be considered at the same meeting in which the bids are reviewed. The council expressed their thanks to Donna for her service to the community.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

*There was a motion to adjourn by Les Lepisto.* Second to the motion by Ken Warner. Motion carried.

Adjourned.

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Marta Lindemanis, Mayor

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Joan Nelson, City Clerk