

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

December 14, 2015

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, Ken Kennedy and Jeff Oehlerking.

Additions. There were no additions to the agenda

Public Hearing. The council opened the meeting to a public hearing to discuss a request from Tony Mai for a dog kennel. The council reviewed information from various sources concerning kennels. Several members of the public asked questions. A main concern appeared to be possible noise. Options such as planting evergreen trees as a noise barrier were mentioned. The council would like the clerk to prepare a draft ordinance/policy for dog kennels within the city limits, based on sample ordinances that were reviewed. The minimum acreage to qualify for a kennel is to be set at four. The clerk will forward the draft to the policy committee prior to full council review. *There was a motion by Oehlerking to allow Tony Mai to have a 12 dog kennel until the ordinance and kennel license application can be completed.* Second to the motion by Pritchard. The motion carried with all in favor.

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

- Approval of November Regular Minutes
- Approval of November Financials
- Approve Cigarette Licenses for LB Foods and Promersberger's Corner

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

Disbursements. The disbursements were reviewed. *There was a motion by Oehlerking to approve disbursements in the amount of \$115,243.03, check numbers 15191 to 15277 and ACH 14919E – 14942E.* Second by Warner. Motion carried. *There was a motion by Pritchard to approve a claim to Maggert Machine in the amount of \$170.68.* Second to the motion by Oehlerking. The motion carried with Kennedy abstaining.

Water Project. Mark Hallan with WSN gave an update on the water project. *There was a motion by Pritchard to approve DSG PPE #2 for \$23,584.30.* Second to the motion by Kennedy. Motion carried. *There was a motion by Warner to approve final payment to WSN in the amount of \$5,061.07.* Second by Oehlerking. Motion carried. Concerns from water consumers about hard water problems were discussed. It seems that in certain homes residue left on dishes is worse than before the treatment plant. Changes in the water treatment were discussed. The council would like the water operator to talk with Hawkins Chemical and MN Rural Water to find treatment options to help sequester the water hardness minerals present in the lines.

Liquor Report. Linda Dey gave a liquor store report. Plans for Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve were mentioned. The recent increase in the cost of beer was discussed. The council approved to drop the markup on beer slightly to try to encourage more competitive prices and higher sales volume. The expense budget was reviewed. *There was a motion by Warner to approve the budget as presented by the liquor manager.* Second by Oehlerking. Motion carried. The carpet installation will begin on January 4th, and the bar will be closed that day to remove the old carpet. The council approved to remove the bar foot rests for now. A bartenders meeting was held to review procedures and customer service goals. *There was a motion to approve the liquor report by Pritchard.* Second by Warner. Motion carried.

Commissioner. Wayne Skoe spoke with the council. A special election will be held to fill Commissioner Ecklund's seat due to his election as a State Representative.

Fire/EMS. Cold weather training is being planned by the department. *There was a motion by Warner to approve the annual Fire/EMS payroll.* Second by Pritchard. Motion carried.

Maintenance Report. It was noted that several small maintenance items are needed in the gym. The clerk will inform the maintenance supervisor. The restroom paper towels holders were discussed. The clerk will look into less wasteful options for dispensers.

Clerk's Report. A dividend was received from League of MN Cities Insurance Trust in the amount of \$7924.00, which is significantly higher than last year. The clerk reported that an emergency operation manual for the clerk's office has been created, to cover basic functions in the event of her extended absence. Vacant seats on the CERC board were discussed. Appointments will be made at the January meeting. The results of the water tower picture vote were reviewed. Shawn Pritchard will ask a local woodworker about building a display case for the photo and plaque. *There was a motion to approve the clerk's report by Pritchard. Second by Kennedy. Motion carried.*

General Levy/Budget. The council reviewed the draft final budget and levy. The levy is to be set at \$48,000.00, with General Fund expenditures of \$174,750.00. *There was a motion by Pritchard to approve Resolution 2015-10, A Resolution Adopting a Final General Fund Budget For 2016 and Setting the Tax Levy Collectible in 2016. Second to the motion by Warner. Motion carried.*

Lions Club Gambling Lease. A new lease for the Lions Club Charitable Gaming operations at the liquor store was reviewed. The new lease fee will be set at 10% of gross profit. *There was a motion by Warner to approve the Lions Club Charitable Gaming lease for pull tabs, electronic pull tabs and electronic bingo at the Big Falls Liquor Store. Second by Oehlerking. The motion carried with Pritchard abstaining.*

Wellhead Protection. The council reviewed the annual summary of Wellhead Protection Activities. *There was a motion by Warner to accept the WHP Annual Summary. Second by Pritchard. Motion carried.*

Café. The council discussed the previous proposal to consider a land exchange between the City and Stanley Baird. Concerns over the possible costs of obtaining appraisals, and the outcomes of such appraisals were discussed at length. In order to continue with further consideration, the council would like an opportunity to discuss options with Mr. Baird, and the clerk is to send a letter inviting him to attend the next council meeting.

The next meeting is set for Monday, January 11, 2016 at 7 p.m. *There was a motion to adjourn by Warner. Second by Kennedy. Motion carried.*

Adjourned.

Marta Lindemanis, Mayor

Joan Nelson, City Clerk