

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 8, 2014

The regular meeting of the Big Falls City Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Marta Lindemanis. Members present were Shawn Pritchard, Les Lepisto, Ken Warner. Absent was Ken Kennedy.

Additions. Charlene Buescher asked to address the council as an addition to the agenda.

Commissioner Skoe. Mr. Skoe was not able to attend the meeting. He is attending a meeting with the representatives from the gasification company

Charlene Buescher addressed the council concerning the paintings in the liquor store. She wanted to clarify that it was just the one print of Wayne Olson that she wanted to display in the liquor store as a donation, and that she had no intention of displaying other paintings for sale. She informed the council about the work that she does, and the services that she could offer to the community, such as art workshops.

Councilor Ken Kennedy entered the meeting.

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

- November Regular Meeting Minutes
- November Financials
- Approval of Cigarette License Renewals for LB Foods and Promersberger's Corner

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

Disbursements. The disbursements were reviewed. *There was a motion by Pritchard to approve disbursements in the amount of \$411,765.64, check numbers 14450 to 14516. Second by Warner. Motion carried.*

Water Project. Don Anderson with WSN gave a report on the water project. The revised Right of Way Map of the scaled down project was reviewed and signed by the Mayor. The treatment plant is scheduled to be on-line by the end of this week, unless any problems arise. Tonka Corp. will be here to do final set up of the plant and training for operations. It was noted that there may be variances in the water quality/clarity during the change-over process, as the new treatment chemicals may loosen sediment from the old pipes. This could cause discoloration for a time. Mr. Anderson informed the council that there were some issues with the tower concrete base testing, as tests revealed that it did not meet strength specs at this point. The contractor may have to enclose the base and heat it to allow for more cure time. The steel materials for the tower should arrive on site this month to be stored there over the winter, and payment will be made in the next partial pay. The distribution lines are about 50% complete, with the remaining work to be completed next spring. The council reviewed the partial pay estimates (PPE) to be submitted to USDA. *There was a motion by Pritchard to approve PPE #4 for contract #1 in the amount of \$146,022.33. Second by Warner. Motion carried. There was a motion by Pritchard to approve payment of the WSN fee bill in the amount of \$23,157.55. Second by Lepisto. Motion carried.*

Liquor Report. Linda Dey was present for the manager's report. She confirmed that Center Line Band is booked for the 3rd and 4th of July. The walk in cooler shelving has been completed and is working out very well for organization. The new popcorn machine is set up. Sharon Moe has been hired as a part-time bartender. The council discussed the draft 2015 liquor store budget that was set by the manager and commissioners. A final budget is to be approved at the January meeting. No major capital expenditures were included in the 2015 budget. The council discussed wage negotiations that were held between the manager and commissioners. The new minimum wage law will require starting wages at \$9/hr by August 1, 2015 and \$9.50/hr August 1, 2016. The commissions presented their recommendations. *There was a motion by Lepisto to approve raises as follows:*

- *Starting wage for bartenders shall be minimum wage*

- *Effective with the December 15th, 2014 payroll: Talia Thompson to \$9.90/hr, Heidi Watson to \$8.80/hr, Rebecca Lennox to \$9.50/hr*
- *Effective with wages paid after August 1, 2015: Linda Dey to \$15/hr, Talia Thompson to \$10.90/hr, Heidi Watson to \$9.80/hr, Rebecca Lennox to \$10.50/hr;. Substitute Janitors to \$10/hr and all other bartenders to \$9/hr*
- *Effective with wages paid after August 1, 2016 all wages to increase by 50 cents per hour.*
- *The next wage negotiation will be in December of 2016.*

There was a second to the motion by Warner. The motion carried with all in favor.

Fire/EMS. Brent Arnold and Beth Pihlaja were present for a Fire/EMS report. There have been very few calls. The annual pay was reviewed. The radio systems were discussed. Beth Pihlaja talked about new technology available that would allow paging to be done through texting rather than pagers. It would require county dispatch to purchase new software and equipment. There is currently no plan to change over to this system. *There was a motion by Pritchard to approve the Fire/EMS report.* Second by Warner. Motion carried.

Maintenance Report. There was no maintenance report.

Clerk's Report. The clerk informed the council that the tornado siren needs maintenance to reprogram the tones due to updates in the system. Bruce Grotberg is working on the issue. The city will be responsible for this cost. It was discussed that there is interest in starting a business in the old dentist office. The council discussed possible rent and terms for an interested party. The business will need to come to a council meeting to discuss terms and conditions.

Tax Forfeit County Land. The council reviewed a letter from the county stating that the tax forfeit land next to the old school could be purchased for \$4,100.00. If the city has a "public use" for the land, it could be turned over to the city at no cost. The council discussed possible public uses for the land. The council agreed to pursue acquiring the land at no cost to be used as a public park/garden and a location for a future trail head for the walking trails.

Water/Sewer Budgets 2015. The second reading of Ordinance #218, An Ordinance adopting a Schedule of Fees and Charges for Various Service, Licenses and Permits for the City of Big Falls, MN was held. There was no public input. The final reading and approval of summary publication will be at the January council meeting.

2015 General Fund Budget and Levy. The council reviewed the final 2015 General Fund Budget and Levy as presented by the clerk. The levy would be set at \$47,500.00. Total budget expenditures were set at \$175,645.00. *There was a motion by Lepisto to adopt Resolution #2014-10, A Resolution Adopting a General Fund Budget for 2015 and Setting the Tax Levy Collectible in 2015.* Second to the motion by Pritchard. The motion carried with all in favor.

Audit. The council reviewed the 2014 Audit Agreement with Brady, Martz and Associates. *There was a motion by Pritchard to approve the 2014 Audit Agreement.* Second by Kennedy. Motion carried.

Wellhead Protection. The council reviewed the annual summary of wellhead protection activities. A discussion followed, reviewing the objectives of the plan. It was noted that the Emergency Response Plan for the water department and wellhead protection plan will need to be updated once the water treatment plant is functioning.

Councilor Lepisto. Les Lepisto addressed the council. He expressed his concerns over issues that he would like the future council to address and follow through on, including the tornado slide and the walking path along Highway 6. He expressed his continued interest in the city's welfare. He offered his verbal resignation from the KCDA board. The council members thanked Mr. Lepisto for his service to the council and the community.

The next regular council meeting is set for Monday, January 12th at 7 p.m. *There was a motion to adjourn by Lepisto.* Second to the motion by Pritchard. Motion carried. Adjourned.