

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

February 10, 2014

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, Les Lepisto, Donna Dauphinais and Ken Warner.

Additions. There were no additions to the agenda.

MN DOT. Duane Hill, MN DOT District Engineer, and Chris Cheney, Area Supervisor were both present to discuss the conditions of Highway 6. The council expressed their concerns over the winter conditions, as well as the general poor condition and narrowness of the road. Highway 6 is classified as a secondary roadway, with "Bare Lane" objectives set at 12-36 hours by MN DOT. They explained that due to a statewide shortage of transportation funding, they cannot foresee any improvement to the roadway.

Commissioner Wayne Skoe. Mr. Skoe will be making contact to see how the city should proceed with their interest in the gasification project.

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

- January Regular Meeting Minutes
- January Financials
- Resolution 2014-01, A Resolution Acknowledging a Donation from the Big Falls lions Club for the Special Projects Account.

There was a motion to approve the consent agenda by Shawn Pritchard. Second by Donna Dauphinais. Motion carried.

Disbursements. The disbursements were reviewed. *There was a motion by Les Lepisto to approve disbursements in the amount of \$37,217.39, check numbers 13833 to 13883. Second by Donna Dauphinais. Motion carried.*

Water Project. Don Anderson with WSN was present to discuss the water project. USDA RD still has some issues, and will not approve bidding until they can be resolved. Issues include free and open bidding, so as not to single out one particular brand, and the projected possible overrun. Curt Meyer will be meeting with the new USDA rep to resolve the problems, and move forward with bidding.

Liquor Report. Kari Lehman was present for a report. *There was a motion by Shawn Pritchard to approve for Linda Dey to attend the MMBA conference with Kari. Second by Ken Warner. Motion carried. Betty Cook has been hired as a fill in cleaning person. The compressor in the freezer had to be replaced. Customer appreciation night was set for April 26th. The liquor commissioners met with Talia Thompson to further discuss her wages. They recommended to the council that her wage be set at \$9.00/hour, retroactive to the date the original raises took effect. There was a motion by Ken Warner to set Talia Thompson's wage to \$9.00/hour, retro to January 13th, 2014. Second to the motion by Shawn Pritchard. Motion carried with all in favor. The clerk noted that quarterly inventory reports will begin this year, showing any losses.*

Fire/EMS. Brent Arnold and Beth Pihlaja were present for the fire/ems report. Hazardous Materials training will be conducted in house in June. This is a free training, that will be mandatory for all fire and ems personnel. Elections were held, with all officers being re-elected as follows: Brent Arnold – Chief, Bill Pihlaja – Asst. Chief, Beth Pihlaja – CMO, and Eric Dahlen- Secretary. *There was a motion to approve the fire report by Shawn Pritchard. Second by Ken Warner. Motion carried.*

Playground. Beth Pihlaja reported that a meeting will be held Wednesday night to form the committee and discuss ideas and funding. Ideas were discussed for landscaping the entire area.

Maintenance Report. Terry Baird reported on progress with the new office space. The council discussed the idea of a black and white photo mural in the new council room area. *There was a motion by Donna Dauphinais to hire Sandy Frye Designs to proceed with designing a wall mural at an approximate total cost of \$600.00, with preliminary design options to be presented to the council for final approval.* Second by Ken Warner. Motion carried. The council reviewed estimates for replacing the front carpet area. *There was a motion by Ken Warner to approve installing new carpet at a cost of approximately \$1500.00.* Second by Les Lepisto. Motion carried. The council discussed getting a new council table, and leaving the old one for use by other organizations in the old council room. The council approved for the clerk to look around to try and find a good used set at a reasonable price, and approved purchase of such set. The council discussed moving the old liquor store big screen TV to the community building stage for use by the CERC, or for public events. Several members expressed concern over safety issues of a large heavy TV on wheels on the stage. *There was a motion by Ken Warner to dispose of the TV by putting it for sale by bid.* Second to the motion by Shawn Pritchard. The motion carried with all in favor. The winning bidder will be responsible for moving the TV from the liquor store. *There was a motion to approve the maintenance report by Ken Warner.* Second by Donna Dauphinais. Motion carried.

Clerk's Report. The clerk presented a note from Shirley Nelson concerning the quilt shop utility bill. The council noted that for the property to have no monthly bill, it would have to be vacant, as per city ordinance. *There was a motion by Les Lepisto to approve a seasonal rate for the property.* Second by Shawn Pritchard. Motion carried. The clerk is to send a letter offering this option. The clerk reported that the CERC may be interested in using the old clerk's office as a CERC office. The council approved. *There was a motion to approve the clerk's report by Shawn Pritchard.* Second by Donna Dauphinais. Motion carried.

2013 Clerk's Financial Report. The council reviewed the financial report as presented by the city clerk for all city funds for the year 2013. *There was a motion to accept the 2013 Clerk's Financial Report by Shawn Pritchard.* Second by Les Lepisto. Motion carried.

Community Building Heat. The council discussed the old fuel oil furnace, and whether or not to look into a more efficient back up system. The clerk is to contact North Star Electric, to get options for efficiency.

The next meeting is set for March 10, 2014 at 7 p.m.

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

Adjourned.

Marta Lindemanis, Mayor

Joan Nelson, City Clerk