

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 9, 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. The proposed water tower design was added to the agenda.

Commissioner's Report. Wayne Skoe was present to talk with the council. The gasification site selection process was discussed. A meeting is being held tomorrow with the county board to discuss various sites. The board discussed winter conditions on highway 6, specifically that there is still a lot of trees shading the road. The clerk is to send a letter to the DOT district office asking whether or not something can be done about this issue.

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

- Approval of January Regular Meeting Minutes
- Approval of January Financials

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

Disbursements. The disbursements were reviewed. The clerk reported that that all bills from Maggert Machine, with a council member as owner, will need to be reviewed separately, based on information provided by the city auditor and attorney. *There was a motion by Warner to approve a claim to Maggert Machine in the amount of \$72.72. Second to the motion by Oehlerking. The motion carried with Kennedy abstaining. There was a motion by Warner to approve disbursements in the amount of \$50,037.76, check numbers 14575 to 14629 and ACH 14134E – 14146E. Second by Pritchard. Motion carried.*

Koochiching County Health. Lindsy Barnhart , a health educator for Koochiching County, presented information to the council. She stated that she works with communities as part of the Statewide Health Improvement Program, to find ways to help residents improve their health and well-being. She also works with the emergency operations response team. She briefed the council on recent trainings and available programs.

Ripple Effect Arts & Consignment. Laura Wicklund was present to discuss the proposed lease with the council. She asked the council to consider a reduced lease fee during the months of January through March, as the shop would be open on an appointment only basis during that time. *There was a motion by Pritchard to approve the lease with the fee to be set at \$100 per month April through December and \$50 per month January through March. There was a second to the motion by Oehlerking. The motion carried.*

Liquor Report. Linda Dey gave a liquor report. Cabin Fever days was not well attended this year. She would like to try again next year, but to have a more set schedule of events. The council would like to see more community activities at that time, and will check to see if the CERC would be willing to sponsor some events. The dollar wall was discussed. It was agreed that it will not be continued at this time, but Linda will look into other possible promotion ideas. New t-shirts are being designed. The council reviewed the employee meal discount policy. *There was a motion by Pritchard to set the employee meal discount to 25%. Second by Oehlerking. Motion carried. Customer appreciation night was discussed. It will be held on Friday, April 10th from 6 p.m. until close. There was a motion by Pritchard to approve the liquor report. Second by Warner. Motion carried.*

Fire/EMS. Brent Arnold gave a fire report. A new member, Kendal Kennedy, has been accepted on the department. Officer election was as follows: Brent Arnold – Chief, Bill Pihlaja – Asst. Chief, Beth Pihlaja – Medical Officer, Amanda Winger – Secretary. The county will be changing over to the new 800 MHZ radio system. The department will need to determine if the current radios are compatible. The radio should still work no matter what, but the reception would not be as clear as the new system. Bruce Grotberg will assist the department with the process. *There was a motion to approve the Fire/EMS report by Pritchard. Second by Oehlerking. Motion carried.*

Maintenance Report. Terry Baird reported on operations of the new treatment plant. He is still working on refining the amount of ferric needed in the system to achieve appropriate arsenic removal, while reducing the number of required backwashes. The new off-peak meter has still not been hooked up at the plant, so the backup propane is being used until this is taken care of. The issue of continued rust in the water was discussed. Terry stated that tri-poly phosphate could be added to the system to possibly speed up the rust removal process. The council discussed the need for an emergency back-up operator for the water system. The clerk has been minimally trained on the computer panel. The summer maintenance person is to be trained as well. The council did feel that at least one or two other people in town should be taught at least the basic emergency shut off locations. The mayor requested that this topic be brought up again at the June meeting, when more progress had been made on the tower project. *There was a motion to approve the maintenance report by Pritchard.* Second by Oehlerking. Motion carried.

Clerk's Report. The council reviewed the Clerk's Annual Financial Statement. *There was a motion to accept the Clerk's Financial Report by Warner.* Second by Kennedy. Motion carried. The clerk presented information and costs for attending the annual clerk's conference with the Littlefork City Administrator. *There was a motion by Warner to approve training at the clerk's conference and associated expenses of hotel and mileage.* Second by Pritchard. The clerk reported that no further information has been obtained about the pending court case.

KCDA. A notice was placed in the Ripple seeking interested persons to serve on the KCDA board. Angela Boes has expressed interest. *There was a motion by Jeff Oehlerking to appoint Angela Boes to fill the Big Falls seat on the KCDA board.* Second by Pritchard. Motion carried.

Water Tower A new draft design for painting the water tower was reviewed, as created by Sandy Frye Designs. The council approved.

SCDP Fund. The council discussed the Small Cities Development Fund, and the requirements for re-loaning those funds. The clerk will check into the process.

Tax Forfeit Land. The council discussed the tax forfeit land by the old school. They concluded that the best public use for the land would be for a parking area for 4th of July and other events. The clerk is to proceed with the process of obtaining the land.

The next meeting is set for Monday, March 9th at 7 p.m. *There was a motion to adjourn by Warner.* Second by Pritchard. Motion carried.

Adjourned.

Marta Lindemanis, Mayor

Joan Nelson, City Clerk