

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

January 13, 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. Commissioner Wayne Skoe asked to address the council, and Donna Dauphinais added a Lions Club request to the agenda. *There was a motion to approve additions by Les Lepisto. Second by Ken Warner.*

Commissioner Wayne Skoe. Mr. Skoe spoke to the council concerning the current gasification project that is proposed to be located in Koochiching County. Shawn Pritchard attended a meeting concerning this issue and informed the council about what was said at the meeting. Mr. Skoe asked the council if the City would be interested in having the facility located in Big Falls, as other communities are not in agreement on its proposed location. The council discussed what was known about the environmental and economic impact of such a project. Several city sites were discussed. *There was a motion by Ken Warner to send a letter of interest to the County Board, suggesting city land in Big Falls as a possible site location for the Gasification Project. Second to the motion by Les Lepisto. Motion carried.*

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

- December Regular Meeting Minutes
- December Financials

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

Disbursements. The disbursements were reviewed. *There was a motion by Shawn Pritchard to approve disbursements in the amount of \$100,749.09, check numbers 13770 to 13832. Second by Donna Dauphinais. Motion carried.*

Mayoral Appointments. The mayor presented the 2014 appointments as follows:

- Acting Mayor.....Shawn Pritchard
- Water & Sewer Commissioner..... Ken Warner
- Street Commissioner.....Les Lepisto
- Weed Commissioner..... Les Lepisto
- CERC Representative..... Donna Dauphinais, Angela Lodmell, Tim Treat
- Timber Commissioners .....Marta Lindemanis & Les Lepisto
- Airport Commissioner..... Paul Reese
- Liquor Commissioners..... Shawn Pritchard & Marta Lindemanis
- Official Depository..... TruStar Credit Union
- Official Newspaper..... International Falls Daily Journal
- Economic Development Commissioners....Les Lepisto & Donna Dauphinais
- Revolving Loan Committee.....To appoint as needed
- Park/Campground Commissioner.....Ken Warner
- Policy Committee.....Les Lepisto, Donna Dauphinais and Joan Nelson
- Fire Chief .....Brent Arnold
- Cemetery Board.....Les Lepisto, Terry Baird, Joan Nelson, Lorraine Nygaard, Frank Nelson, Shirley Boes, Linda Parson & Ken Warner

Water Project. Curt Meyer updated the council on the project. USDA RD is currently requiring modification of some of the bid documents, to comply with “free and open” competitive bidding requirements. As soon as RD approves the bid documents, bids can be let. Construction activity during the week of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July was discussed, and the council stated that no construction is to take place from the 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 6<sup>th</sup>, and the main street needs to be clear and accessible. Dates for a proposed amended MDH compliance agreement were reviewed and approved.

Liquor Report. Kari Lehman was present for a report. The council reviewed TV prices and decided to purchase from the open market per city purchasing policy. *There was a motion by Les Lepisto to purchase two televisions, extended*

warranties and installation services from Trykke Entertainment in the amount of \$4,204.96. Second by Donna Dauphinais. Motion carried. The council approved to continue the Dollar Wall promotion, with the maximum prize set at \$100.00. The liquor commissioners reported on their meeting with the manager concerning wage negotiations. The council discussed the need for a lead bartender to fill in when the manager is not available. *There was a motion by Shawn Pritchard to set the starting bartender wage at \$7.25 per hour, with a 50 cent increase after 6 months, with all other current bartender position wages to increase 50 cents/hour, with Linda Dey to be promoted to the position of lead bartender at a wage of \$9.86 and Talia Thompson to return to previous bartender position wage, plus the 50 cents/hour, raises to be effective January 13, 2014.* Second by Ken Warner. The motion carried with all in favor.

Fire/EMS. Brent Arnold and Beth Pihlaja were present for the fire/ems report. The department will hold officer elections this month. New policies are being worked on, and will be presented to the council when complete. Four EMS members will be attending the Arrowhead EMS convention. *There was a motion to approve the fire/ems report by Les Lepisto.* Second by Shawn Pritchard. Motion carried.

Playground. The council asked Beth Pihlaja if there has been any progress with the playground committee. They asked that proposed equipment be chosen soon, so that the Lions International funding can be applied for. Beth said she is planning a committee meeting for later this month.

Maintenance Report. Terry Baird reported that the hot water will be installed in the upstairs bathroom soon. New lights have been installed in the Legion room. The council reviewed a water system inspection report from MDH. The council would like Terry to start getting quotes now for the liquor store doors, so that everything is set to get them installed first thing this spring. *There was a motion to approve the maintenance report by Shawn Pritchard.* Second by Donna Dauphinais. Motion carried.

Clerk's Report. The council discussed moving the clerk's office to the vacant bank office space. *There was a motion by Shawn Pritchard to move the city office to the old bank space, with Terry Baird to remove the small office wall to make room for a council meeting space.* Second by Ken Warner. Motion carried. The annual financial statement will be presented at the next council meeting.

Ordinance #217. The council reviewed the revised fee ordinance for the final reading, and the proposed summary publication. *There was a motion by Donna Dauphinais to adopt Ordinance #217, An Ordinance Adopting a Schedule of Fees and Charges for Various Services, Licenses and Permits for the City of Big Falls, Minnesota, and to approve summary publication.* Second to the motion by Les Lepisto. Motion carried.

Lions Club. Donna Dauphinais asked if the city would donate a campground gift certificate for a raffle basket for the Lions Convention. The council discussed that it would be a good promotion for the campground. *There was a motion by Shawn Pritchard to give a two-night stay gift certificate to the Lions Club.* Second by Ken Warner. Motion carried.

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

*There was a motion to adjourn by Shawn Pritchard.* Second by Ken Warner. Motion carried.

Adjourned.

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Marta Lindemanis, Mayor

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Joan Nelson, City Clerk