

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

March 14, 2016

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. A KCDA bylaw amendment was added to the consent agenda. A presentation by Koochiching County Veterans Service Office was added to the agenda.

Commissioner. Wayne Skoe was present to speak with the council. The council asked about the county's plans for paving 2nd Street this summer. No definite dates have been set, but it will be sometime this summer. The gasification site was discussed.

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

- Approval of February Regular & Special Meeting Minutes
- Approval of February Financials
- Approval of KCDA By-Law Amendment

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

Northland Securities. Chris Eng with Northland Securities gave a presentation concerning the possibility of refunding the city's USDA sewer bond. Different options were discussed, and potential savings reviewed. The council raised questions concerning the effect of future USDA funding requests if this current debt is sold. The clerk is to talk with the USDA representative, to ensure that there would be no consequences for future funding needs. There was no action taken at this time, with further discussion to take place at the next meeting.

Veterans Services. Candance Ritch, Koochiching County Veterans Service Officer, addressed the council. A "Ticker Tape Parade" is being planned for all Koochiching County Veterans. She asked the city to consider entering a float in the parade.

Disbursements. The disbursements were reviewed. *There was a motion by Pritchard to approve disbursements and LMC Tax Rebates in the amount of \$50,831.35, check numbers 15393 to 15503 and ACH 14988E – 15004E. Second by Warner. Motion carried.*

Water Project. *There was a motion by Pritchard to approve payment to WSN in the amount of \$942.50. Second by Warner. Motion carried.*

Liquor Report. Linda Dey gave a liquor store report. A meeting will be held with the manager and the liquor commissioners to discuss the assistant manager position and review applicants. The customer appreciation date has been changed to April 23rd. The council discussed options for smoke alarms in the liquor store that would tie into the security system, to call out in the event of a nighttime fire. Linda is still waiting to receive quotes from our current security company. The council approved to update the auto fryer with a fire suppression system that meets new safety codes. *There was a motion to approve the liquor report by Warner. Second by Oehlerking. Motion carried.*

Employment Review. The council began proceedings to close the meeting to consider a termination recommendation from the Liquor Store Manager. Janet Schweigert, the subject of the meeting, was present. Ms. Schweigert exercised her right under Mn Statute 13D.05 Subd. 3(a) to request that the meeting remain open to the public. The council listened to the allegations by the liquor store manager. They also listened to Ms. Schweigert's response to the allegations, and a request to consider an alternate discipline. Discussion followed. *There was a motion by Warner to uphold the manager's recommendation to terminate the employment of Janet Schweigert due to repeated violations of Liquor Store Policies. There was a second to the motion by Kennedy. The motion carried with all in favor.*

Fire/EMS. Bill Pihlaja was present for a report. The department is still having issues with the quality of pages received from dispatch. They will look into the possibility of getting the county to change over to a cell phone notification system. *There was a motion to approve the Fire/EMS report by Pritchard.* Second by Kennedy. Motion carried.

Maintenance Report. Terry Baird reported that a water sample was sent in to Hawkins to determine the cause of the “white residue” that some water customers have been experiencing. The sample results showed that our treatment process is working as it should be. The residue is most likely due to particles still being flushed through the system from old pipes. Adding a poly phosphate to the water may help to sequester the residual particles. The cost for this treatment would be about \$1,000 per year. The council discussed their hesitance to add another chemical to the water. They concluded that they would review the issue in 6 months, to give the system additional time to clear the remaining sediment. In the interim, home filters and softeners may help consumers alleviate some of the issues. The council approved to update the electrical outlets in the community building kitchen area. The council briefly discussed the old brick building, and the need to either repair it or remove it. This issue is to be added to the April agenda. *There was a motion to approve the maintenance report by Pritchard.* Second by Oehlerking. Motion carried.

Clerk’s Report. The council discussed abandoned property on city land. The clerk is to follow procedures to have this removed. The council approved painting in the community building hallways. The clerk reported that there was \$3,907.03 of unclaimed rebates from the Littlefork Medical Center Taxing District funds. *There was a motion by Oehlerking to transfer the rebate balance to Economic Development Funds, to be used for the campground Master Plan project fees.* Second by Pritchard. Motion carried. *There was a motion by Pritchard to approve the clerk’s report.* Second by Kennedy. Motion carried.

City Audit. The council reviewed the 2015 Audited Financial Statement as prepared by Brady Martz. *There was a motion to approve the 2015 Audit by Warner.* Second by Oehlerking. Motion carried.

Ordinance #220, Dog Kennels. *There was a motion by Oehlerking to adopt Ordinance #220, An Ordinance Regulating Dog Kennels and Licensing Procedures.* Second to the motion by Pritchard. Motion carried.

Campground. The council discussed options for possible land acquisition for the campground plan. The council agreed to wait to proceed until a determination is made as to whether or not the campground will receive “regional designation” from the GMRPT Commission.

Lease. The council reviewed a draft lease for Mark Haverland’s Food Truck. *There was a motion by Warner to offer to lease the North 50 feet of lots 11 & 12, Block 9, Robinson’s Addition, with a fee of \$50 per month, renewable monthly for up to 7 months, with other conditions as set forth in the draft lease.* Second to the motion by Pritchard. Motion carried.

Parking Lot. The council discussed plans to begin work on the parking lot to be created along second street. A letter is to be sent to the owners of property currently being stored on the land, to ask for removal. The council would like the clerk to inquire as to whether or not the county would run lines to roughly mark the property boundaries.

1st Call. The council reviewed a funding request from the 1st Call For Help organization. No action was taken on the request.

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

Adjourned.