

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

September 12, 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. Additions to the agenda were as follows: Old Photo Collection, Campground Issues, Water/Sewer Rates.

North Star Electric. Ann Ellis, General Manager from North Star Electric was present to talk to the council concerning the recent redistricting. Lorraine Nygaard, a current board member, was also present. The district lines were redrawn to try to base each district on an approximately equal population group. This resulted in only seven districts, rather than the previous eight, with Big Falls and Littlefork combined into one district, sharing one board member representative. The council discussed ways to ensure that Big Falls will still receive equal representation.

Commissioner. Wayne Skoe was present for a report. He informed the council about the current budget process at the county. There was a discussion concerning a possible request for the county to provide some sort of matching funds for further campground development, should the pending Legacy Grant be received. The clerk will look into projected engineering costs and draft a letter to the county concerning possible upcoming funding needs. The main street resurfacing is still scheduled for this fall, around the first of October, pending favorable weather.

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

- Approval of August Regular and Special Meeting Minutes
- Approval of August Financials
- Approve building permits: Richard and Lauren Klement, and Linda Dey
- Approve cemetery lot agreement: Rebecca Fahje

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

Disbursements. The disbursements were reviewed. *There was a motion by Pritchard to approve disbursements in the amount of \$56,210.00, check numbers 15771 to 15827 and ACH 15098E – 15117E. Second by Oehlerking. Motion carried.*

Campground. Cyndi Broad was present to address the council. She asked about the limits on using the Pavilion for overnight or extended periods of time. The council agreed unanimously that all picnic shelters are for use by the general public and all guests. That they are intended for day use only, and no camping, overnight usage, or “storage” is permitted. The council discussed the possible purchase of a golf cart for the host to use for her duties, as she currently is using her personal vehicle. No action was taken at this time. It was noted that gravel is needed underneath the tether lines at the horse camp.

Liquor Report. Linda Dey gave a liquor store report. August was a busy month, with good profits. A DJ has been hired for the Halloween dance at a cost of \$400. It was noted that distributors have raised beer prices again. *There was a motion to approve the liquor report by Warner. Second by Oehlerking. Motion carried.*

Fire/EMS. No report given this month.

Maintenance Report No report was given this month. Shawn Pritchard reported that the county highway department graded most of the city streets one morning last month, in exchange for use of the water tank truck. The council would like to see the updated job description/duties for the maintenance department at the October council meeting. They would also like an update on the electric work still needing to be completed at the community building.

Clerk’s Report. The clerk reported that she will be attending a meeting in Grand Rapids concerning the plans for the DNR birding trail project. The clerk requested a new computer, as the current one has far exceeded its expected useful

life, and she would rather be proactive, than wait until there are critical problems. *There was a motion by Kennedy to approve the purchase of a new computer for the clerk's office.* Second by Pritchard. Motion carried.

Mayor and Council Salaries. The clerk brought it to the attention of the council that the salary ordinance has not been changed since 2006. She provided information concerning salaries paid by other small communities. The council approved to draft an ordinance revising the salaries to be similar to other communities, with rates of \$125 per meeting for the mayor and \$100 for the council. This ordinance will be presented for final approval at the October meeting.

General Budget. The council discussed various revenue sources, and possible changes to fees. They agreed to change the shower fee at the campgrounds to \$2. The possibility of increased revenues at the campground due to "Regional Status" was discussed. The proposed preliminary budget was reviewed, with a levy of \$52,000.00, and total expenditures of \$181,150.00. *There was a motion by Pritchard to approve Resolution #2016-11, A Resolution Adopting a Preliminary General Fund Budget for 2017 and Setting the Tax Levy Collectible in 2017.* There was a second to the motion by Oehlerking. The motion carried with all in favor.

Water/Sewer Rates. The council discussed rate structures to meet the needed revenues for the 2017 budgets. The current seasonal rate class was discussed at length, as well as what other small communities do for seasonal properties. It was noted that there is an increasing number of recreational/non-resident properties in town. It was further noted that the majority of the infrastructure cost remains the same to keep the system operational, regardless of the number of user connected. Hence, all users of the water system will be required to pay a monthly bill. The council approved to draft the ordinance for review at the October meeting with the following rates for all users: the water base rate will be \$25 per month plus \$1.09 per 1000 gallons of usage; Sewer rates will decrease to \$39 per month. Customers with "seasonal" properties that are not their primary residence will receive a discounted sewer rate of \$25 per month. There will be no other rate classifications or discounts.

Photos. Ken Warner presented some old photos that he was given. He asked the council to consider building a frame for the hallway in the lower level of the community building. Photos could be placed in the frame, and rotated with new photos occasionally. The council agreed that this would be a good idea for the community.

The next regular meeting is set for Tuesday, October 11th, 2016 at 7 p.m, as the preceding Monday is Columbus Day. *There was a motion to adjourn by Warner.* Second by Kennedy. Motion carried.

Adjourned.

Marta Lindemanis, Mayor

Joan Nelson, City Clerk