

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 8, 2014

The regular meeting of the Big Falls City Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Marta Lindemanis. Members present were Shawn Pritchard, Les Lepisto, Ken Warner and Ken Kennedy.

Additions. The 671 café was added to the agenda.

Assessment Hearing. The council reviewed a pending assessment for delinquent utility charges. There were no members of the public present wishing to discuss their pending assessment. *There was a motion by Warner to adopt Resolution 2014-07, A Resolution Certifying Unpaid Water and Sewer Utility Charges to the County Auditor.* Second to the motion by Lepisto. Motion carried.

Perryn Hedlund was not present to address the council. The County Attorney was not present to address the council concerning the pull tab investigation.

Commissioner Skoe. Mr. Skoe informed the council that building and site specs are being created for both of the proposed gasification sites being considered. The Berger peat project was discussed. Berger is meeting with the county board to discuss their intentions. The junk vehicles and other property stored on the county owned land by the school was discussed. The clerk is to send a letter to the county concerning this property.

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

- August Regular Meeting Minutes with a correction in the clerk's report – motion to approve was made by Pritchard
- August Special Meeting Minutes
- August Financials
- Approve building permit for Stephen Flackey

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

Disbursements. The disbursements were reviewed. *There was a motion by Pritchard to approve disbursements in the amount of \$214,474.16, check numbers 14267 to 14331.* Second by Warner. Motion carried.

Water Project. Don Anderson was present from WSN, and reported that the project is moving along according to schedule. The application for subsequent funding was turned in based on the contract 3 bid, and an answer from USDA RD is expected soon on how much funding the city can obtain. *There was a motion by Lepisto to approve and sign the USDA Letter of Intent to Meet Conditions, and Certification for the anticipated subsequent funding.* Second by Pritchard. Motion carried. The water tower foundation is scheduled to start construction late this month. The council reviewed partial pay estimate #2 for the treatment plant contract. *There was a motion by Warner to approve partial pay estimate #2, and to authorize the city clerk to sign future partial pay estimates on behalf of the City.* Second by Lepisto. Motion carried.

Small Cities Grant Program. Dana Herschbach with KOOTASCA presented information to the council concerning grant and loan opportunities for residential housing and commercial rehab through MN DEED Small Cities Development Program. This program would be the same one in which the city participated in 2006. The process would involve KOOTASCA applying on behalf of the city, and if successful in obtaining the grant, act as administrator for the program. *There was a motion by Pritchard to allow KOOTASCA to apply for the Home Owner Occupied and Commercial grants through the Small Cities Development Program, on behalf of the City of Big Falls.* Second to the motion by Lepisto. Motion carried.

Liquor Report. Linda Dey reported that the new beer cooler has been installed. There was a good turnout for the Labor Day event. A DJ has been reserved for Halloween, Charter Night and New Year's Eve. North Star Electric will go through the liquor store to conduct an energy audit to see if there are any cost effective ways to save energy. New sweatshirts are in stock with more to be ordered. Linda will be attending a food manager's class in October in Bemidji. Talia

Thompson inquired about purchasing the old safe. *There was a motion by Pritchard to sell the safe for \$150.00, with the purchaser to be responsible to remove it from the liquor store. Second by Lepisto. Motion carried. There was a motion by Lepisto to approve the liquor report. Second by Warner. Motion carried.*

Fire/EMS. The annual Brat Feed is set for Thursday, Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>. The EMR training is completed.

Maintenance Report. It was mentioned that there are graves needing attention in the cemetery. Ken Warner, Les Lepisto, Terry Baird and Joan Nelson will meet on Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss the issue.

Clerk's Report. A revised mayoral appointment list was reviewed, with Ken Kennedy replacing Donna Dauphinais as CERC representative, Economic Development Commissioner and on the policy committee. The council approved a dance permit for Rodney Marble to hold a wedding dance on Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>. The clerk will be attending a Small Cities meeting as required by DEED. *There was a motion by Pritchard to approve the clerk's report. Second by Warner. Motion carried.*

Union Contract. The council reviewed the union contract as negotiated at the August meeting. *There was a motion to approve I.U.O.E. Local 49 Contract dated 9/1/14 through 2/28/2017. Second to the motion by Lepisto. Motion carried.*

2015 Budget. The council reviewed a draft of the preliminary 2015 general fund budget and levy. This draft includes a \$2500 increase in the levy, and it was noted that there has been no levy increase since 2009. *There was a motion by Lepisto to adopt Resolution 2014-06, A Resolution Adopting a Preliminary General Fund Budget for 2015 and Setting the Tax Levy Collectible in 2015. There was a second to the motion by Kennedy. The motion carried with all in favor.*

Café. The council discussed the importance of trying to help get the café back in operation. The possibility of the city taking ownership was discussed, in hopes of finding an interested party to lease the building. Marta Lindemanis will pursue talks with the current owner to discuss options. Shawn Pritchard will talk to the county forestry office to inquire about having the city timber cruised, to determine the value of that city asset.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m., as the regular Monday meeting night falls on the Columbus Day holiday.

*There was a motion to adjourn by Lepisto. Second to the motion by Pritchard. Motion carried.*

Adjourned.

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Marta Lindemanis, Mayor

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Joan Nelson, City Clerk