**CITY OF BERTHA**

**REGULAR MEETING OF CITY OF BERTHA**

**HELD AT THE BERTHA COMMUNITY CENTER**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2017**

**Present:** Mayor Zimmerman, Members Olson, Hoemberg, Bowman and Nelson

**Staff:** Clerk Umland, Public Works Templin and Police Berndt

Guest: Trinity Gruenberg, Russ Vandenheuvel, Brenda Roberts, Karen Winkler, Pete Wallner,

Marv Stokes, Gerald Berndt, Kim Aagard & Joel Betswinger(Tri County Healtcare), Amy

Botzet, Pastor Brown and Thomas Mayfield.

***Declaring a quorum, Mayor Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and the citizens recited the Pledge of Allegiance.***

***Annual Meeting***

Now that the fall local government elections are over and results have been certified, the final step that local government elected officials must complete before assuming office is to take the oath of office. Note the oath does not have to be taken at a formal meeting of the governing body, although it often is. The newly elected officials all took the oath of office given by City Clerk Umland prior to the first of January but could not assume duties until after the first Monday of January. Members Hoemberg, Olson and Zimmerman were the newly elected officer that took the oath prior to the 1st of January.

**Resolution 2017-02 –A Resolution approving the Annual Officials Designations and Appointments**

1. Elect an Acting Mayor to serve in absence of Mayor during 2017
2. Designate Official Newspaper to 2017
3. Designate Depositories for City Funds during 2017
4. Review Committee Appointments to different Boards

Complete list of designations and appointments can be seen on file at the City Clerk Office.

A motion was made by Hoemberg and seconded by Bowman to approve Resolution 2017-02, a resolution designating official appointments and designations. Vote for: Hoemberg, Olson, Zimmerman, Bowman and Nelson. Vote against: None. Motion carried.

A letter from Mr. Tim Churchwell confirming his resignation as the Bertha City Attorney effective January 31, 2017. His resignation is based upon his appointment as a District Judge in Douglas County, Minnesota. Mr. Churchwell recommended Joe Krueger be appointed as the new City Attorney. His present practice involves representing other communities in and around Todd County. In the resolution Mr. Krueger was appointed as our new City Attorney. Brown & Kruger will handle all regular matters such as contracts, ordinances, resolutions and legal work ordinarily associated with city matters on an hourly basis at a billing rate of $115.00 per hour and billed on a monthly basis.

**Regular Meeting**

**Public Comment**

Thomas Mayfield with National Healthcare Capital LLC discussed bonding with Tri-County Health Care. TCHC has a chance to refinance debts and improve their interest rates. TCHC is looking for a municipality to be the conduit issuer for tax exempt refinancing to pick up the remainder of the financing that the City of Wadena can’t cover. TCHC only needs two municipalities to make the refinance happen and are looking to complete a deal by the end of March. In November, Mr. Mayfield contacted the city and spoke about the possibility of the City of Bertha acting as a conduit issuer for a tax exempt refinancing for Tri-County. In the past, the City of Wadena has acted in that capacity previously and, based on his conversation with Mr. Swenson, the City of Wadena will assist Tri-County in that manner again this time. Still, given that the amount of the proposed refinancing is above an applicable limit in the tax code, they must find it necessary to seek the assistance of one additional conduit issuer. Mr. Mayfield assured us that that there would be no cost to the city. All the fees associated with Ehlers and the attorney will be paid by Tri County Healthcare. The City of Bertha would act as a second issuer in this refinancing for the hospital. The hospital needs to reach out beyond Wadena to meet their $15 million need. The City of Bertha is required to hold a public hearing where residents can ask questions. Mayor Zimmerman questioned him if the city could charge and he stated in most small cities they don’t only in the metropolitan area. He also explained how conduit refinancing works and is monitored. A public hearing is scheduled for the March 13th regular council meeting.

Mark Brown, a concerned citizen, stated when he comes into town early in the morning he would see our public work personnel out in the rigid cold brushing the sidewalks. He felt that the city should invest in some type of equipment that would be enclosed. Another option, that he brought up would that the employees would switch off being in the vehicle. Mayor Zimmerman stated one problem is where to store the equipment. Clerk Umland will check to see how much is designated for future purchase of equipment that could be used for snow removal.

Amy Botzet agreed that they should have snow removal equipment that are enclosed.

Karen Winkler and Brenda Roberts spoke on their interest to attend the Emergency Medical Services Exhibition and Conference that will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah starting February 23rd. Ms. Stalberger has received a scholarship for tuition. They would have to pay for the cost of airline tickets and motel. This would count for continuing education credits for their national registry license. Prior to the regular council meeting they met with Dennis Zimmerman, Darrell Hoemberg and Russ Vandenheuvel. The consensus of the council gave them permission to hold a fundraiser this year but could not have it as part of the city. It would be a personal fundraiser with funds being raised to help defray expense for their trip. The city has no obligation of any cost for this trip. If they raise more money than needed it is theirs. Clerk Umland will check with Keith Porter how to handle fundraiser in the future for the ambulance service and funds going toward continuing Ed. Credits. There was a lengthy discussion on how to handle funds that were raised.They also informed the council on the different licenses that EMT can have.

4. ***Communication Reports***

***A.*** Reviewed the enterprise reports – no questions

B. ***Fire/Ambulance Reports***

Ambulance Chief Vandenheuvel that the volunteers will be starting a 24 hours refresher course.

***Fire Department Personnel***

***Resignation – Wm Mousseau, Dan Almquist and Tim McKnight:*** Motion by Hoemberg and second by Nelson, with voting in favor aye, approving the resignation Mousseau, Almquist and McKnight effective December 31, 2016.

Fire Department Chief Wallner stated that the furnace has quit and is in the process of getting repaired.

**C. Law Enforcement –** Mr. Berndt presented the council with his December activity report. The monthly report showed the following violations for Bertha; 1-accident, 17-citizen calls, 2-citations 7 warnings, 2 public assist, 1-investagation and 4 alarms. Mr. Berndt did not have any other items to bring forth.

**D. Public Works Report –** Mr. Templin supplied the council with his December activity report. The monthly report included a lot of snow removal. His report included a comparison of annual water pumped and sewage treated for 2016. As a condition of the WIF Grant, the city is required to fund a long-term asset replacement reserve. The amount that will be set aside for 2016 will be $10,727.60 which will be added to the current CD in August following the annual audit. The amount is based on $.50 per 1,000 gallons sewage treated. Totals for 2016 are as follows: water pumped is 12,703,966 gallons and sewage treated was 21,455,200 up from 2015. Mr. Templin suggested that the council consider upgrading the alley that goes in back of Verna Mae Leyh. Since all the residents are occupied there is much more traffic. A brief discussion on snow and ice removal on business sidewalks. Currently, the city crew removes the snow and salt/sands in the business district. The council has received some complaints about the gravel on the sidewalks. The council agreed that the city crew would only remove the snow and each business is responsible for salting the area in front of their business. If the business is vacant the city crew will salt the sidewalk and the cost would be assessed to their taxes. Mr. Templin will talk to all business to inform them that they are responsible for keeping the sidewalks clear of ice. Clerk Umland will contact Jeff from USDA and see if the John Deere lawnmower purchased with grant money can be used for other purposes once depreciated.

**E. Clerk –** review of the January agenda

**5. Consider Business Items**

A. Purchase of Mousseau Property – Clerk Umland signed the Real Estate Closing Statement on the property purchased from Wm. and Anjanette Mousseau on December 29, 2016. The total expense to the City of Bertha was $2,300.00 which included $100 closing fee the responsibility of the buyer. As to the assessment, since the property is being purchased by the City, who is the issuer of the assessment, has been removed by resolution passed at the December meeting Clerk Umland, has also filed the correct paperwork with the county assessor for tax exempt status.

B. 2017 Insurance Review - A copy of the premium breakdown for 2017 was included in the council package. The total premium estimate which includes workers compensation for 2017 is $23,115.00. The regular premium option was selected per occurrence.

C. Snow & Ice Removal in the business district – was discussed under public works.

**6. Consider Consent Agenda – Action Required**

Note: The Consent Agenda listed those items of business which are considered to be routine which need no discussion. Consent items are acted upon by one motion. If discussion is desired by council, that item may be removed to an appropriate section of the regular agenda for discussion.

Mayor Zimmerman asked if there were any additions, corrections, deletions to be made to the Consent Agenda. Motion by Hoemberg, seconded by Member Olson to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, with all members voting in favor. The agenda items include the following:

1. Approval of the December 12, 2016 Regular Council Minutes
2. Approval of December Disbursements & Authorize Issuance in accordance with the list provided including all electronic payments.
3. Review bank correspondence – Bank Statement & Investment Report
4. 2017 Promotion Schedule – Approved support to 2017 Promotion Schedule with Independent News Herald for $160.00. The Independent News Herald will offer full page recognition of 23 events by promoting the city with a small ad.
5. Resolution 2017-05 - Approved Issuance of LG240B Application to Conduct Excluded Bingo, by the State Gambling Control Board, to the Bertha Firemen Relief Association by Russ Vandenheuvel, for use on April 5, 2017 at the Bertha Community Center. The City Clerk is authorized and directed to be able to complete and sign the application on behalf of the City of Bertha prior to submitting it for approval from the state.

7. **Committee Reports**

**A.** Resolution 2017-03 Setting 2017 Employee Compensation – Member Nelson asked that this resolution be tabled until the next meeting when they will bring a recommendation and will be retroactive to the first of January.

8. **Meeting/Conference/Correspondence**

**A. Upcoming Training –**for review only

B. Bertha Firemen Relief Association Report Card – for review only. The 2015 Investment Report Card is provided for informational purposes to help assess the relief association’s short-term and long-term investment performance.

**C. 2017 Police Department Budget for the Cities of Eagle Bend/Bertha** provided by Eagle Bend City. The total budget for 2017 is estimate at $115,745.00 with the City of Bertha quarterly payment of $14,468.12. The City of Bertha would retain the money paid by the Bertha-Hewitt School for the liaison position.

D. Ambulance Service Rates – Clerk Umland suggest the rates have not been increased since 2001.

***9. Adjournment***

There was no further business to come before the City Council, Member Nelson moved; Member Bowman seconded the motion to adjourn. With all members in favor motion was carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. Carried.