CITY OF BERTHA

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF BERTHA

HELD AT THE BERTHA COMMUNITY CENTER

MAY 10, 2021

***Members Present:*** Acting Mayor Nelson, Members Captain, Winkler & Hoffman

***Members Absent:*** Mayor Olson

***Staff Present:*** Clerk Umland

***Guest Present:*** Minda Robertson, Pete Wallner, Russ Vandenheuvel, Yvonne Jahrus, Lori

Mcknight, Brenda Roberts, Shaun Harrington, Alex Weego, Mark Turner & Roger Schahn.

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

***Public Hearings : None***

***4. Communications Reports***

***A. Review the enterprise reports for April – No comments***

***B. Public Safety Reports –*** Mr. Wallner asked the Council to approve two new recruits to the fire department. Motion by Member Captain to approve Tyler Klimek and Jeremiah Johnson to the fire department as new volunteers effective April, 2021. Motion was seconded by Member Winkler. Motion carried all in favor. Motion by Member Winkler , seconded by Captain allowing the fire department to advertise the old rescue unit.

Director Vandenheuvel stated he had possibly one new recruit. May 16-22 (EMS Week) this is the perfect time to honor those frontline responders dedicated to providing emergency care to help save so lives.

***C. Law Enforcement –*** Todd County Sheriff Department provided an April activity report which summarizes the 24 calls received in their department during the month of April : 4 animal complaint, 1-civil issue, 2 custody dispute, 1-damage to property, 1-disturbance, 1-fraud, 2-gas drive-offs, 2-juvenile issues, 2- warrant checks, 1-welfare check and 7 miscellaneous calls.

***D. Public Works Report –*** Mr. Templin provided the council with his April activity report which summarizes work done within his department. His activity report included : sweeping streets, reading meters, water turned on at the park, work started on the bridge, met with the seasonal workers an still working with 2 residents on sewer issues. The council was informed that there was damaged done at the picnic shelter and has been turned over to law enforcement. A claim was submitted to LMC for damages done with the street sweeper during removing snow.

***E. Clerk’s Review –*** is an overview of the agenda for council use.

***5. Unscheduled Public Appearance –***

Yvonne Jahrus, 113 4th Street NW, complaints about her next door neighbor issues that involved loud music, dogs running at large, and residents yelling at one another which is an ongoing problem. Acting Mayor informed her she must call Todd County Sheriff Department and report it to them.

***6. Consider the Consent Agenda – action required***

***Note:*** The Consent Agenda list 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.

Acting Mayor Nelson asked if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections to be made to the Consent Agenda. Motion by Member Winkler, seconded by Member Hoffman to approve the consent agenda as presented. Carried. The consent agenda included the following:

1. Approval of the April 12, 2021 Regular Council Minutes & April 14, 2021 Board of Review Minutes
2. Approval of the April Disbursements & Authorize Issuance in accordance with the list provided including all electronic payments plus Check Nos. 18480 thru 18498 in the amount of $9,423.12.
3. Review Bank Correspondence – Bank Statement & Investment Reports
4. Recommend approval of Resolution No. 2021-17-A Resolution to conduct Off-Site Gambling Permit to the Bertha Area Sportsmen Club to hold bingo at the Bertha Community Center on July 9, 2021 at the Bertha Community Center.
5. Consideration to approve the ***Todd-Wadena Counties Fire Association Mutual Aid Agreement*** with 20 fire departments .
6. Resolution 2021-18-Resolution Accepting a Donation from Jo & Tom Fern for $100.00 for the Bertha Ambulance Service.
7. Todd-Wadena Electric Operation Round-Up Grant Application – the city is in the process of submitting a grant in the amount of $500.00 to be used towards the purchase of a 50 inch LED television which would be used for training.

***7. Consider Business Items***

***A.*** Community Center – Randy Becker has completed painting the interior walls at the community center.

***B.*** The Council considered the recommendation from Dylan Folkstad , new property owner, concerning the recertification of a special assessment on the tax-forfeited property located at 205 First Street NW (Parcel No. 29-0012500). The council adopted Resolution 2020-03 which returned the tax forfeited property to private ownership. Mr. Folkstad wasn’t willing to make a written commitment to develop the lot. He felt that by purchasing the lot and paying up the 2012 special assessment is more than fair. The county auditor department suggested it ‘s kind of hard to pin the public nuisance expense on the new taxpayer. They thought it was nice of him to have the parcel back on the tax roll rather than sitting in tax forfeit status not generating any tax revenue. It was moved by Winkler, seconded by Member Captain to approve Resolution 2021-14 authorizing the parcel to retain the 2012 Water/Sewer Improvement Assessment and cancel the public nuisance assessment of $11,044.00. Carried.

**C.** Community Clean Up Day – The council had a brief discussion on when to hold the community clean up day. It was decided first to do a city wide inspection and then provide information to homeowner with ideas on where to dispose of the nuisance.

**D. Broadband Communication –** Alex Weego spoke to the council about Hometown Fiber and getting broadband to the area by having Eagle Bend, Bertha and Hewitt and area townships join forces to get broadband. He suspects the program will cost around $2 million with state and federal funding assisting as well as Sourcewell, Blandin Foundation and Initiative Foundation. He hoping to set a meeting up with the three councils to hear a presentation from Hometown Fiber.

**E. Big Bear Self Storage-**Mark Turner, owner of Big Bear Self Storage is wishing to expand. The lot he is looking to purchase is on County Road 23 and is zoned residential. He was inquiring whether the council would consider rezoning the property if he were to purchase it with the intention of using the land for self-storage rental. He was informed that they would have to hold a public hearing which was scheduled for June 14th at 6:00 p.m. He would place a number of weather tight containers on a gravel base starting at the highest point of the property and adding more as demand dictates. The containers in new condition and placed in a tight linear fashion for visual appeal.

**F. Residential Sewer Problem-**a discussion on the residential sewer issue on Main Street. The city attorney drew up a ***Petition and Waiver Agreement that all parties involved must sign and have notarized.*** This would allow the city to go ahead and have the repairs done and pass on the expense to the homeowners. The assessment for the actual cost of the project incurred by the city shall then be assessed to the owners over a period not to exceed 10 years. The final length of the period shall be determined by the city. The assessments shall accrue interest at a rate of 4.00% per annum. Since the city does not know the cost until after the work is completed is was hard to know the terms of the special assessment.

8. ***Committee Reports***

***A. Personnel - Motion*** by Captain, seconded by Member Hoffman to hire Randy Becker & Charles Harlow as seasonal workers at $15.00 per hour. Carried. This would include all lawn maintenance for the city.

The personnel committee consisting of Paul Olson and Deb Nelson has recommended the hiring of Chase Graba for the Public Works Supervisor position. The position was advertised in the Independent New Herald, Mn Rural Water Assoc., and the League of Minnesota Cities. The City of Bertha received three applications for this position and were all interviewed.

***Member Winkler introduced Resolution 2021-15, being seconded by Member Hoffman:***

Authorizing tendering a conditional offer letter to Mr. Chase Graba for the position of full time Public Works Supervisor at $19.00 per hour. Carried.

***9. Correspondence/Meeting/Conference***

***A.*** Management & Budget – Notification of compliance with the Local Government Pay Equity Act. The City of Bertha pay equity case is approved and meets compliance requirements.

**B.** American Rescue Plan Federal Funds – correspondence was provided by Todd County giving the council an update of the stimulus money that should arrive in June. At the time of the meeting, the information was vague and they will send more information towards the end of the month.

**C.** Community Corrections – Review the request for donation to the Sentencing to Service Program and decided to postpone funds until after the painting on streets is done.

***D.*** Ambulance Runs – Review the two requests asking for a reduced cost. The council denied the request and suggested they set a monthly payment plan with no interest.

**E. Redistricting News –** The census board announced that Minnesota will keep all 8 of its congressional seats by the slimmest margin of 89 people.

**10. Adjournment**

There was no further business to come before the City Council. Member Winkler moved; Member Captain seconded the motion to adjourn. With all members in favor, motion was carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. Carried.