CITY OF BERTHA

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF BERTHA

HELD AT THE BERTHA COMMUNITY CENTER

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2019

***Members Present:*** Mayor K. Nelson, Members Olson, Captain and Bowman

***Members Absent:*** Member D. Nelson

***Staff Present:*** Clerk Umland and Public Works Templin

***Guest Present:*** Aaron & Amy Botzet, Karen Winkler, Kim Aagard (Tri-County Healthcare), Tom Mayfield (National Healthcare Capital), Russ Vandenheuvel, Brenda Roberts, Trinity Gruenberg and Jacob Weishair(Todd County Deputy).

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

***3. Unscheduled Public Appearance:***

*An opportunity for members of the public to address the City Council on items not on the current agenda. Items requiring Council action may be deferred to staff or committee for research and future agenda, if appropriate.*

*Aaron Botzet, 205 4th Street NW- questioned the council on the parameter for parking of commercial vehicles. He requested that he be allowed a couple hours to park the tractor unit by his residents to unload personal belonging. He was asked if two hour limit would allow him to accomplish the unloading. Mayor K. Nelson informed him to contact Jeremy Sharpe to discuss parking his tractor on his lot. He might make available for the trucker to plug in during the winter months.*

*Karen Winkler, 200 4th Street NW-inquired about installation of a little free library on her property. Little Library is a “take a book, return a book” free book exchange. The library box comes in many different shapes and sizes, but most the common version is a small wooden box. Anyone may take a book or bring a book to share. There is an understanding that people are sharing their favorite books with the residents of the community. There was a brief discussion as where other could be located in the community. Mayor Nelson asked her to contact Mr. Bartels at the school to see if his class would construct a library box.*

***4. Communication Reports:***

***A. Review the enterprise reports for August –*** no questions

***B. Fire/Ambulance Reports -***  Chief Wallner was not in attendance. Mr. Vandenheuvel stated that they will be promoting Fire Week in October and will be sharing the activities with Eagle Bend and Hewitt Fire Departments. Mr. Vandenheuvel provided the council with the 3rd quarter statistics for the ambulance. He stated that many ambulance services are encountering a large percent of no loads. He still is researching the purchase of a new ambulance but estimated the date to be around 2020 in time for Bear Country Days.

***C. Law Enforcement –*** No August report since our contract with the county was not effective until September 1st. The council discussed the forfeiture vehicle that is sitting at the impound lot is now available to be sold. Brenda Roberts offered to help put it on social media for bids. Mr. Templin suggested he inquired from an area dealer and the suggested price we could get was around $1,000.00

D. ***Public Works Report-***Mr. Templin supplied the council with his August activity report that summarizes the work done in his department during the month. Ideal Construction finished the tar project for the city. Johnson Jet Line televised the sewer lines and hit an obstruction in front of Saloon Renew. During our 2012 project , the water line was drilled thru the sewer line. Mr. Templin has reached out to Moore Engineering for advice. He has made several attempts by phone to the company with no response back. To correct their mistake would cost approximately $25,000.00. Moore Engineering will be sending the Wagner Construction a letter to see if they have insurance to cover the mistake. Mr. Templin provided the council with a quote to have the concrete floors in the campground bathroom redone. Motion by Olson, seconded by Member Bowman accepting the bid from Nice Epoxy for $1,501.50. The bid includes pre-work, supplies, paint and flake broadcast. Carried. The work will be done yet this fall.

**E. Clerk’s Overview –** for review only

***5. Consider Business Items***

***A. Semi-parking – discussed earlier*** No resolution was passed at this time. Mayor Nelson clarified that 1st Ave NW is allowed for unloading purpose.

***B. Tri-County Healthcare –*** Kim Aagard shared the background for the new hospital project. Remodeling the current hospital would cost approximately the same as a new building, but it would be still 50 years old. The focus on the new hospital would put emphasis on outpatient and less on inpatient. Tom Mayfield (National Healthcare Capital )gave a presentation on the finance for Tri-County’s upcoming project. Tri-County Healtcare will require financing for most of the cost of this project. In addition, Tri-County Healthcare has existing long-term debt which will be refinanced in conjunction with the project financing. Although subject to change, the current estimate of the amount to be financed is $81 million. It anticipates that two-thirds, or $54 million, of the long-term financing will be direct loan from the USDA through a Community Facilities Program. The USDA prefers on projects of this size with a portion of the financing be extended by other parties. This element of the plan of finance is currently sized at $27 million. Thus, it is necessary that there be short-term construction financing, which will be replaced by the long-term financing upon project completion. Non-profit organizations which own healthcare facilities have the privilege under both Federal and State law to benefit from the use of tax-exempt financing with the cooperation of local government. Tri-County is asking the City of Bertha to assist. This time Tri-County Healthcare is asking Bertha to issue non-bank qualified, tax-exempt debt for both sites in the entire amount of construction financing required up to a current estimate of $81 million. Mayor Nelson said that TCHC shared a few months ago that they were thinking about closing the Bertha Clinic if the number of patient visits did not increase. Mayor Nelson stated, “I think our city residents here would ask us if we’re crazy to think about signing something when they’re considering closing our local clinic”. I would like to see something in writing assuring the Bertha Clinic would stay open at least four days a week. At this time, they are trying to find ways to revitalize the clinic. At the present time, they are having a male doctor at the clinic one day a week. Ms. Aagard stated that she couldn’t promise to keep it open if it’s not good business sense, because that wouldn’t help us with our bottom line. Mr. Nelson will be meeting in the next month with the hospital board to discuss the future of the clinic. The first step is for the city to agree to conduct a public hearing relative to the project and the financing.

***The following resolution was introduced by Member Bowman and seconded by Member Olson.***

***Resolution 2019-30***

***Resolution Scheduling a Public Hearing on Financing a Project for***

***Tri-County Hospital, D/B/A Tri-County Healthcare to use the City of Bertha***

***as a conduit for tax exempt bonds.***

All present voted in favor of the resolution, none in opposition thereto. Mayor K. Nelson declared the resolution passed and adopted.

***C. Water/Sewer Rates –*** no discussion – Clerk Umland will put together some figures on different usage and how much the customer bill would increase using the three different options.

**D. 2019 Preliminary Levy Adoption – Resolution 2019-23**

*Councilmember Bowman introduced the following resolution and moved for its adoption:*

**A Resolution Adopting the Preliminary 2020 Budget and Proposed 2019 Tax Levy for Taxes Collectible in 2020.**

***Be It Resolved,*** by the City Council of the City of Bertha, County of Todd, Minnesota that the following sum of money is levied for the current year, collectible in 2020, upon the taxable property in the City of Bertha, for the following purposes:

General Levy $ 81,800.00

Fire Levy $ 9,500.00

Street Levy $ 40,000.00

Ambulance Levy $ 1,000.00

Total $132,300.00

*The City Clerk is hereby instructed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the County Auditor of Todd County, Minnesota.*

*Adopted and passed this 9th day of September, 2019.*

*Member Captain seconded the foregoing motion and passed unanimously. A complete copy of this resolution is filed in the City of Bertha minute book.*

***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.***

Mayor K. Nelson asked if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections to be made to the Consent Agenda. Motion by Bowman, seconded by Member Captain to approve the consent agenda as presented. Carried. The consent agenda included the following items;

1. Approval of the August 12, 2019 Regular Council Minutes
2. Approval of the August Disbursements & Authorize Issuance in accordance with the list provided including all electronic payments along with the 3rd quarter ambulance payroll checks.
3. Review Bank Correspondence –Bank Statement & Investment Report
4. Approve the following zoning permits:
5. Permit 2019-06- Charles Harlow- 218 1st Ave NW - 32X36 Garage
6. Permit 2019-07-Aaron & Amy Botzet-205 4th St NW-16X16 removable deck
7. Approving Resolution 2019-29 – Authorizing application for a Small Project Partnership Grant and if awarded, accept the funds from Sourcewell.
8. Resolution 2019-28 approving the certification to the property tax roll for unpaid service charges for mowing at 4th Street NW-Parcel 29-0016000- in the amount of $120.00
9. Resolution 2019-31 accepting a donation for the Bertha Ambulance Service for $59.00

***7. Committee Reports – none***

***8. Correspondence/Meetings/Conference***

***A.*** Enviro-Fest – received correspondence from Todd County SWCD seeking support of $225.00 for the 25th annual Enviro-fest . Donating to the Todd County Enviro-Fest is a way the city can meet one of the plan actions in your Wellhead Protection Plan. Motion by Olson, seconded by Member Captain to donate $100.00 to support this event. Carried.

***9. Adjournment***

There was no further business to come before the City Council. Member Bowman moved; Member Captain seconded the motion to adjourn. With all members present in favor, motion was carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.