***CITY OF BERTHA***

***REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF BERTHA***

***HELD AT THE BERTHA COMMUNITY CENTER***

***September 12, 2022***

***Call to Order the Open Forum at 5:00 p.m.***

1. ***Address Mandatory Garbage Pickup-*** Terry Lanoue informed the public that currently about 70% of residents already contract for garbage services. Long Prairie Sanitary Service is the only hauler that is allowed in Bertha. At the current time contracting for garbage service is strictly voluntary and not required. Some property owners alternatively collect their waste and periodically take it to the County solid waste transfer station for proper disposal to save money. While many if not most property owners act responsibly, a significant number do not. Some residents thought this would be good to help with public safety and to help the city be more presentable. It was noted that the City’s park and businesses, people are dumping their garbage, resulting infilled trash containers. There was concern if this would fix the problem. During the public comments, some residents spoke out against the proposal since they have worked with neighbors and take it to the transfer station. There have been some cases that significant amounts of trash were accumulated in garages and yards. This has resulted in attraction of rodents decrease in property value for the surrounding neighbors. Mandatory city wide trash service within the city limits would be cheaper. The price will depend on who does the billing the city or LPS. If they did the billing, they would need the support from the city for collecting bad debt by assessing the unpaid trash service to property taxes. The rate would depend on the size of the container the resident decides to have. Some residents felt that government has too much control and some residents wouldn’t be able to afford it. The public forum was closed at 5:50 p.m.
2. ***Feasibility Study was canceled***

***Members Present:*** Mayor Olson, Members Hoffman, Winkler & Captain

***Member Absent:*** Member Nelson

***Staff Present:*** Clerk Umland & Public Works Maland

***Guest Present:***  Brenda Roberts, Pete Wallner, Leona Bowman, Brian Yates, Amanda Hansen, Connie Trotter, Caitlin Moore , Terry Lanoue (LPS), Dawn Captain, Mike Gaudette and Josh Olson.

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

***3. Approval of the Agenda:*** Call for additions or deletions to the regular agenda. The City Clerk asked that the following item be added to consent agenda: 7F 2022 Audit Engagement letter from Carlson SV. Winkler motioned, seconded by Captain to adopt the agenda as amended with the addition to the consent agenda as listed above. Motion passed unanimously

***4. Public Hearing: None***

***5. Unscheduled Public Appearance***

***Brent Lind-***voice his opinion on the nuisance properties in Bertha and how it devaluate the adjacent property owners. He expressed his feeling on enforcing our current ordinance to make residents clean up their property. The council felt this is an ongoing issue and is difficult to enforce. Next year, the city will work on this issue.

***6. Communications Reports***

***A. Review the August Enterprise Reports -*** no comments

***B. Public Safety Reports –***Mr. Wallner informed the council that the department is in the process of selling the old grass rig (155) on MN Bid. org. The department will be visiting other fire halls to get ideas for their project. They are also checking into how to finance the project.

Director Hansen gave a brief monthly report. She attended the conference in Alexandria for all directors. CPR class will be held October 5th. Refresher course is being scheduled in January or February for all EMTs. The phone at the ambulance office will be disconnected to save money. She informed the council that a letter was sent out asking for donations with funds going to a new Life Pak. Will inquire about getting a fleet card.

1. **Law Enforcement Report-** Todd County Sheriff Department provided the council with the July activity report that summarizes the 18 calls received in their department for Bertha: 1-accident fatality, 1-burglary, 1-theft, 1-traffic stop 2-welfare checks and 12-miscellaneous.
2. **Public Works Report –** Mr. Maland presented the council with some items that he would like to purchase for the shop. 1. All Weather Cab for John Deere tractor for $1,299.00. Motion by Member Winkler, seconded Captain approving the purchase of the cab not to exceed $1,300. Carried. 2. 3 ½ ton floor jack from Napa 3. Fastenal - Bolt Bin, 10 foot Pole Saw Kit, cordless grease gun. Motion by Member Winkler, seconded by Member Hoffman approving the purchases of a bolt bin with a 3 year contract, floor jack for $279.00 and pole saw (up to $850.00). Carried. Matt Cardinal questioned the council on dumping waste from his porta potty at the sewer plant. He stated the solution that is used is environmental friendly. Mr. Maland will document when he does it and will be charged $35.00 per thousand. It was consensus of the council to permit him to do that.
3. Clerk Review – for review only she informed the council that all the insurance claims were paid by LMC.

***7. Consider the Consent Agenda –Action required***

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

Mayor Olson asked if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections to be made to the Consent Agenda. Item 7F Audit Agreement Letter from Carlson SV was added to the agenda. Motion by Member Captain, seconded Member Hoffman to accept the consent agenda with the addition of 7F added. Carried. The consent agenda included the following items:

1. Approval of August 8, 2022 Regular Council Minutes
2. Approval of August Disbursements & Authorize Issuance in accordance with the list provided including all electronic payments plus September Check Nos. 90430-90514 in amount of $16,447.70 which include the 3rd quarter ambulance payroll.
3. Review Bank Correspondence – Bank Statement & Investment Report
4. Approved Fence Permit 2022-03 from Neil & Leona Bowman- wood fence on the east side of property plus a fence setback variance signed by the adjacent neighbor.
5. Approved Fence Permit 2022-04 from Chad & Amanda Kilbury- for a chain link fence as diagramed on back of the application form.
6. Authorize Entering into Agreement with Carlson SV CPAs & Advisors for 2022 Audit Services-with gross fee, including expenses, will not exceed $14,200.00.

***8. Consider Business Items***

***A. Broadband Communications –*** the coalition is still making strides to get residents to fill out the survey. The coalition is in the process of setting up a 501C nonprofit.

***B. Small Cities Development Program – September 7th update.*** The director of CMH Partnership has received 12 applications with Hewitt receiving only 7 applications. Eight approved applications with initial inspection completed, scopes of work being created, and lead paint risk assessments being ordered.

***Approval of Pay Request #1 for the following payments:***

***Partial Payment Estimate #1 in the amount of $525.00 to Central Minnesota Housing Partnership, Inc. for administrative services was approved under 7B.***

***Partial Payment Estimate #1 in the amount of $3,500.00 to Environmental Health Testing Services for lead risk assessment.was approved under 7B.***

***C. LPS Mandatory Garbage Pickup –*** A decision will be made at the October meeting to give the council more time and hear from more residents.

***D. Energy and Environmental Plan –*** the first committee planning meeting was held on September 1st to draft a community survey. The survey will close on October 31st. Once the survey is analyzed the committee will construct a work plan. Based on the stated community goals, the Team identified possible projects to be completed in 2022-2023 with existing funding opportunities and resources. Projects were prioritized based on the extent to which they align with the goals identified in the survey.

E.  ***2022 Preliminary Tax Levy & 2023 Budget Adoption –Member Hoffman introduced the following resolution and moved for its adoption:***

***Resolution 2022-41***

***Certifying the 2023 Budget & 2022 Preliminary Tax Levy***

***For Taxes Collectible in 2023***

***BE IT RESOLVED,*** by the City of Council of Bertha, County of Todd, Minnesota that the following sum of money be levied for the current year, collectible in 2023, upon the taxable property in the City of Bertha, for the following purpose:

General $111,900.00

Fire 10,500.00

Street Levy $ 25,000.00

Ambulance Levy $ 3,324.00

**Total $150,724.00**

The final budget for the City of Bertha for 2023 was approved with the expenditures to different funds allocated in the following ways;

General $341,000.00

Fire $ 51,500.00

Revolving $ 100.00

Water $158,500.00

Sewer $156,500.00

Ambulance $203,400.00

**Total $911,111.00**

**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 12th day of September, 2022. Member Captain seconded the foregoing motion and passes unanimously. A complete copy of this resolution is filed in the City of Bertha Minute Book.**

**Motion by Member Winkler, seconded by Member Captain to set December 12, 2022 at 6:35 p.m. for Truth-n-Taxation Hearing. Carried.**

**F. Malowski Center-** Josh Olson is interested in using part of the old Malowski Event Center for winter horseshoe league and also for holding tournaments. He felt this would bring people into Bertha He is hoping from the fees that it will cover the utilities expenses.

Motion by Member Captain, seconded by Member Winkler approving that Josh Olson has permission to use the old Marlowson Event Center for winter league horseshoe and tournaments at his expense and no expense to the city. Carried

***9. Committee Reports***

***A. Approving Resolution 2022-43-*** the city clerk received a letter of resignation from Brent Lind on August 29th with effective date immediately. Motion by Member Winkler, seconded by Member Hoffman to approve his resignation. Carried.

***10. Correspondence/Meeting/Conference***

***A. Diamond Tool –*** Prospective buyer has decided at this time that the purchase was not feasible.

**B. 2022 Todd County Enviro Fest –** the council was provided with a letter from Deja Anton from Todd County Soil & Water Conservation District. The letter explains their annual Enviro-fest and what it consist of in her letter and was seeking support for the program through donations. The donation would go to pay the cost for a water presentation put on by the Science Museum of Minnesota. The city has a wellhead protection fund where money can be used to promote educational class dealing with water. Motion by Member Winkler, seconded by Member Captain to donate $100.00 to Todd County Enviro-Fest. Carried.

***C. League of Mn Cities –*** a letter was provided from the League informing the council the increase in dues. The board has adopted a 3.0% increase final dues schedule increase for 2023 fiscal year.

**D Recycling Survey by Todd County Solid Waste –** a letter was provided from Todd County Solid Waste on the results of the survey. The survey will be used in gathering more information to be used to inform future recycling programs decisions.

***11. 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 8:20 p.m. Carried.