

**CITY OF BERTHA  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF BERTHA  
HELD AT THE BERTHA COMMUNITY CENTER  
MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2014**

**Members Present:** Council members Zimmerman, Olson, Hoemberg and Mayor Klebs.  
**Members Absent:** Councilmember Hammond  
**Staff Present:** Clerk Umland, Public Works Templin and Police Berndt  
**Guest Present:** Trinity Gruenberg, Pete Wallner, Marv Stokes, Ron Lage, Henry Greenwaldt and Randy Chock.

**Declaring a quorum, Mayor Klebs called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and the citizens recited the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**3. Review and Adopt the Consent Agenda**

**Note:** The Consent Agenda listed those items of business 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 Klebs asked if there were any additions, corrections, or deletions to be made to the Consent Agenda. **Zimmerman moved, Olson seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented which included the following items: with all members present voting in favor.**

- A.** Approval of March 10, 2014 Regular Council Minutes
- B.** Approval of March Disbursements and Authorized Issuance in accordance with list provided.
- C.** Reviewed bank correspondence – Investments & Bank Statement
- D.** Accepting Resolution 2014-05 approving the 2014 list of election judges and wages as stated in the resolution for the primary and general election.
- E.** Approval of the Fire Relief Association annual RF-13 report for 2013 as presented. The audit report was done by Mayer, Porter & Nelson, Ltd. and is available at the City Hall for anyone interested in reviewing. This report summarizes the Bertha Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association financial, investment and plan information for the year ended December 31, 2013.
- F.** Accept the release of Jodi Christenson as a Volunteer Firefighter. Ms. Christenson was released in 2013 by the Bertha Volunteer Fire Department to take up residence elsewhere. As part of their by-laws a member that moves from Bertha to take up residence elsewhere, shall terminate their membership with the department.

**4. Public Comment**

Ron Lage and Henry Greenwaldt were present to address the council about the alley in back of their property on Cherry Street. They would like the city to cost share to extend the tar in the alley west to 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NW. They informed the council that all residents that have property abutting the alley are in favor of paying 50% of the cost to have the alley paved. The total cost of the project is \$4,650 and they are asking the city to pay \$2,325 this would include a 3 inch lift and the total footage of the project is 310 feet. The council could not justify spending money to pave one alleyway when there are several streets in town that need attention first. They felt the allies are secondary and informed them that the special assessment policy states that the residents are responsible for 80% of the cost of repairs to streets. The council took no action at this time on the matter.

## 5. Consider Business Items

- A. Bertha Authority Project** - The council discussed the letter received from Dennis Wagner, owner of Wagner Construction, Inc., asking the city to reduce the liquidated damages that were assessed to them to 50% of the amount. Wagner Construction was assessed a total of \$57,350.00 on the project. The council instructed Clerk Umland to send a letter to Mr. Wagner denying his request and to send a copy to Moore Engineering.
- B. City Entrance Sign** – Clerk Umland informed the council on the some plans for the entrance spot for the city. She explained the cost to engrave the rock would cost from \$500-600 and would also need to purchase some shrubs. Council member Hoemberg said Staples Public Works just put an engraved plaque with lettering on a rock. He will take a picture and get more information. Clerk Umland will have more information at the May meeting. She suggested using funds that were put in the Revolving Loan last year from the closing of the Bertha Development Checking Account. The amount was approximate \$3,000.00.
- C. Ordinance update** – Clerk Umland has supplied the city attorney with the changes and waiting the final draft back. She stated that a public hearing would have to be held prior to the adoption of the updated code.
- D. Streets Repairs**- the council discuss at length the conditions of some of the streets in town that are in desire need of repair. They received from Tri-City a quote to repair these streets which would cost approximately \$400,000.00. They discuss how the residents would be able to afford another assessment. Clerk Umland was asked to contact Jeff at USDA about if they borrow money for this type of project and if an engineer would have to be involved. The project possibly would not take place until 2015. The streets involved are the following: 1<sup>st</sup> Street NE to intersection of 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave NE pass housing unit, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave NE – 1 block between housing units, 3rd Ave NE – 2 blocks past Ward & Greenwaldt, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave SE – 2 blocks, 2<sup>nd</sup> St SE-2 blocks.

## 6. Communications Report

- A.** Review the enterprise reports
- B. Fire/Ambulance Report – Mr.** Wallner informed the council that they will be applying for a DNR grant. Mr. Wallner has received complaints from Bertha Township why the city share of the fire contract price isn't paid until May. No report from the ambulance department.
- C. Law Enforcement**- Police Berndt presented his March monthly activity report. The report showed violations as follows: 15-citizen calls, 3-citations, 19-warnings, 2-public assists, 4-assist other agencies and no vehicle unlocks.
- D. Public Works** – Supervisor Adam Templin presented the March monthly activity report:
- \* demo old secondary clarifier
  - \* Attended the weed inspector and Loss & Control meetings
  - \* Added insulation to the attic of public works office
  - \* Installed a few new water meters
- Tabled getting a new entrance door for the Lion's kitchen
- Motion** by Zimmerman, seconded by Member Hoemberg to approve the purchase of a bagger for the lawnmower (\$390.) and new entrance door to the Fire Hall/City Clerk Hall (\$860.00). Carried. The money from the scrap iron will go toward the purchase of these items.

Topics for discussion:

Gas heater in old lift station should be replaced – tabled until May for more information

Discuss things the city could add to make the town better for the citizens. Mr. Templin and the park committee will meet and discuss what can be made available.

There was a brief discussion about Bear Country Days and Mr. Wallner said the fire department is planning their annual tractor pull and a dance.

There was some concern about the appearance of yards in Bertha. It was suggested that an annual drive around be done and Clerk Umland send a letter out asking them to clean up. If nothing is done the police would send out a second notice.

### ***7. Meeting/Conference/Correspondence***

**A.** Board of Appeals & Equalization was held on April 11<sup>th</sup> – minutes will be presented at the May meeting for approval.

**B.** Joint Power Agreement correspondence – reviewed

**C.** NJPA – Anna Gruber, Region 5 , will attend the clerk’s meeting to be held on April 24<sup>th</sup> at the Bertha Community Center to discuss ways cities can collaborate and especially ways that NJPA can help.

**D. 2014** LMC Annual Conference – reviewed the information

### ***9. Adjournment***

There was no further business to come before the City Council. Councilmember Zimmerman moved, Member Hoemberg second the motion to adjourn. With all members in favor, motion was carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:10.