***CITY OF BERTHA***

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

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

***MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2019***

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

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

**Guest:** Dan & Barb Becker, Amy Botzet, Karen Winkler, Karin Nauber, Ken Ashbaugh, Pete Wallner, Birch Pettow, Marv Stokes, Sarah Rach, Jenn Wolfenbarger, Scott Powers and Brenda Roberts.

Mayor Ken Nelson opened the public hearing at 6:37 p.m. to discuss unpaid utility charges for Traditions Bar & Grill. Barb & Dan Becker (property owner) were present for the public hearing. They provided the council with outstanding bills that are owed by the previous owner on the establishment. Notices of the public hearing were sent to the account holder and the property owner. The Becker’s questioned if they could make a payment arrangement prior to turning on the water. A motion was made by Bowman and second by Member D. Nelson allowing the water to be turned on prior to any payment. The payment plan would start pending the opening of the establishment with payment on a monthly basis. Carried. Barb questioned if the 2019 property taxes would have to be paid prior to getting the liquor license. The council agreed that only the 2018 portion would have to be paid. It was moved by D. Nelson, seconded by Captain and carried unanimously to approve 2019 liquor license to Dan & Barb Becker contingent upon receiving the necessary paperwork. A motion by D. Nelson, seconded by Member Bowman to close the public hearing at 7:45 p.m.

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.***

Sara Rach and Jenn Wolfenbarger, representing Bertha Hewitt Parent Teacher Organization, informed the council on the activities they are planning during Bear Country Days. They inquired about closing one block of 2nd Street NW in front of Seip Drug from noon until 6:00 p.m. They need a flat surface to hold their bean bag tournament. The council tabled this matter until later in the meeting.

Ken Ashbaugh inquired about the trailer blocking an alley.

Amy Botzet informed the council she will be in charge of the parade only to help the fire department out.

Karen Winkler, 200 4th Street NW, addressed the council on different violations that she noticed around the city. She has studied up on the sump pump regulations. Her neighbor is getting flooded out by one member of the council pumping water from her basement out. The Botzet’s lawn had at least 11 ¾ inches of water standing on their lawn. When they mowed the lawn it was all mud. The homeowner did remove the hose and put it on the alley. There was a lengthy discussion on this issue and how to solve the problem to eliminate runoff into the Botzet’s yard. It was decided that this matter be checked out on Tuesday to prevent water running in neighbor yards.

She questioned if shooting pellet guns in the city limits was allowed. Mr. Berndt stated that residents could not shoot any fire arms within city limits.

The last item she had for the council was a letter from a neighbor that was unable to attend the meeting. The letter contains information about the removal of an old house on her property.

Birch Pettow questioned the parking of his green KW semi on private property. Mr. Berndt explained that he checked the license out and it was current. Mr. Pettow stated that it just needed new batteries to make it operable. He received permission from Steven Greenwaldt to park it there. He stated the city clerk informed him that Steve Greenwaldt property ran up to the tree line. He felt if someone filed a complaint that they should inform him and not bother Mr. Berndt.

Mayor Nelson stated that the council tries to do their job and treat everybody fairly. They shouldn’t have to put up with a lot of grief and they can’t fix all the problems overnight. Brenda Roberts stated if Karen does not know the answer she will research the problem.

There was a brief discussion on snow removal and Ms. Winkler felt the Ambulance and Fire Garages should be high priority.

A discussion was held on changing our current ordinance on regulating truck traffic & parking in residential area of the city. One suggestion is allow only the truck/tractor in the residential area and makes them park the trailer in the area designated for parking of trucks. Then limit the time of parking in front of the resident to allowing for unloading of their personal items.

***4. Communications Report***

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

B. Fire/Ambulance Reports - Fire Chief Wallner informed that the annual grant offered by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to fire departments was submitted. Mayor Nelson questioned him about where some of events were being held during Bear Country Days.

Ambulance Report – Russ Vandenheuvel was unable to attend and provided the council with the 2nd Quarter Ambulance Statistics. The 2nd Quarter report stated that they had 38 runs with 45% to Tri-County Healthcare, 34% to Lakewood Hospital, 10.5% to Centra Care in Long Prairie and 10.5% no loads.

C. ***Law Enforcement –*** Mr. Berndt provided his May activity report for the council to review but they had no comments. The monthly report showed the following violations for Bertha: 5-citations, 2-arrests, 3-public assist, 2-investigations, 4-assist other agencies, 1-alarm, 2-vehicle unlocks and 18 citizens calls. There were 27 nuisance letters sent out to city residents that were in violation of city code.

D. Public Works Report –Mr. Templin supplied the council with his May activity report that summarizes the work done during the month. The council was provided with a copy of a letter from Thein Well. The letter stated that both wells are due to be pulled for physical inspection an estimate of $3,500.00 for each well plus if any parts are needed. If the city pulls both wells in the same trip this would save the city money. Mr. Templin suggested budgeting this item for 2020.

***Consider Approval of a Proposal submitted Tri-State Coating -***

A verbal estimate was received for $3,000.00 to clean the water tower. Mr. Templin stated the growth of the mold is wrecking the UV protectant in the paint and the longer the city postpones cleaning the more damage that will be done to the painted surface. A motion was made by D. Nelson and seconded by Bowman to approve clean and paint touch up on the water tower, as needed, not to exceed $5,000.00.  ***Carried.***

Mr. Templin is still waiting to hear back from MN Power & Light about the lighting at the basketball court. A thank you will be sent to the Ambitious 4-H Club for beautifying the business district with flower planters. They repaired and painted the old planters that the city used in prior years.

Minnesota Rural Water was in town on Friday, June 7th and cut down the shut-off valves that were raised in the streets at no charge.

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

***5. Consider Business Items***

***A. Pond Easement Road –*** At the May 13th meeting a motion was made by Member D. Nelson approving the purchase of two gates with Patriot Solar automatic powered operating systems for $8,812.00 from Oberg Fence Company. Mr. Templin then advised the mayor that was the cost of only one gate. After some discussion, the council has decided to purchase only one gate and installed it where you enter. A motion was made by D. Nelson and seconded by Member Olson to rescind partial motion made on May 13, 2019, approving the purchase of 2 gates with automatic powered operating system for $8,812.00. and approved the purchase of one gate with an automatic powered operating system with three remotes and not to exceed $8,500.00. Carried.

***B. Manhole rehab Project –*** After the May meeting, Clerk Umland submitted a letter to Minnesota Public Facilities Authority requesting withdrawal of $20,000.00 from the System Replacement Fund. Clerk Umland read the response to her letter received back from PFA authorizing the withdrawal of $20,000.00 from the reserve account to facilitate full project funding of the manhole rehab project.

***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, corrections, deletions to be made to the Consent Agenda. Motion by Bowman, and seconded by Member D. Nelson to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with all members voting in favor. The following agenda items include the following:

1. Approval of the May 13, 2019 Regular Council Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of the May Disbursements & Authorized Issuance in accordance with the list provided including all electronic payments.
3. Review Bank Correspondence - Bank Statement & Investment Report
4. Acknowledging the donation from the Eagle Bend Lion’s Club for $250.00 designating it to assist the city in funding an event, “National Night Out.”
5. Approve Resolution 2019-16 authorizing the write-off of an uncollectible ambulance bill for collection to Minnesota Recapture Recovery program and direct the city clerk to remove the account from active receivables of the City of Bertha, said account being detailed in the officials’ files of the City. Expert T Billing has determined the account shown on the resolution is uncollectible.
6. Resolution 2019-18 authorizing the Bertha Fire Department to apply for and, if awarded, accept a 50-50 matching grant up to $3,832.00 through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The grant would assist the department with the purchase of water movement and safety equipment.
7. Approved Resolution 2019-20 - The council reviewed the annual population and household estimate as provided by the Minnesota State Demographer. There was no objection to the estimate which will be used for the purpose of determining state government aid programs.

**7. Committee Report –None**

**8. Correspondence/Meeting/Conferences**

**None on the agenda**

**9. Adjournment**

There was no further business to come before the City Council. Member D. Nelson moved; Member Bowman seconded the motion to adjourn. With all members in favor, motion was carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.