CITY OF BERTHA

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF BERTHA

HELD AT THE BERTHA COMMUNITY CENTER

MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2019

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

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

***GUEST:*** Pete Wallner, Russ Vandenheuvel, Karen Winkler, Brenda Roberts, and Ken Ashbaugh

***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.***

The following person appeared before the council during open forum.

***Pete Wallner*** wanted to set the facts straight on the issue about the removal of the tree on his property. He was given prior approval from Public Works Supervisor to do it during the winter. He had to wait because of all the snow in the vacant lot. He informed the council that he would return the lot in the condition it was prior to removing the tree when weather permits.

***4. Communications Reports***

***A.*** Reviewed the enterprise reports for March – no questions

**B. *Fire/Ambulance Reports –*** Mr. Vandenheuvel gave his report first. He was given permission to draw up specs for a new ambulance rig. He estimated the new vehicle would cost around $225,000.00 and would like to purchase it locally. He currently is looking for funding sources that are available. He announced that some of the EMT volunteers attended the Tri-County Recognition Night. The Bertha Ambulance Service received two awards for calls that they attended.

Fire Report – Mr. Wallner announced that Ham Bingo was well attended. He explained the mechanical issues involving the fire equipment. Once a new ambulance rig is purchased, the fire department hopes to buy the old ambulance rig and convert it into a rescue van.

**C. Law Enforcement –** Mr. Berndt provided his March activity report for the council to review but they had no comments. The monthly report showed the following violations for Bertha: 18- citizen calls, 7-citations, 4-warnings, 3-assist other agencies, 1-alarm, 2-vehicle unlocks and 1- accident. A letter will be sent to all residents prior to doing a city-wide inspection. An inspection will be done sometime the end of May with Member Captain and Bowman helping.

**D. Public Works Report –** Mr. Templin provided the council with his March report to review and they had no comment. His report included that he continues to work on a solution for pond easement road and some of the residents had trouble with sewer lines freezing up. A proposal from Bertram Asphalt Company for crack sealing the streets was discussed. Motion by D. Nelson, seconded by Member Olson awarding the street crack sealing job to Bertram Asphalt Company with an estimated total cost of $,6,600.00. Carried. An estimate of 4,000 pounds ($1.65 per pound) of rubberized cracksealer will be needed to do the project. Bertram Asphalt Company will provide all labor, and equipment in accordance with specifications as stated on the proposal which is on file. This project is intended to maintain city streets at a high level in order to extend the life of the pavement prior to needing a more costly overlay or a reconstruct. Mr. Templin will get an estimate for tarring streets that weren’t done last year plus one block of 1st Street NE south of Horizon Manor.

Options of different lighting were discussed for the Lion’s Building and replacing with LED lights. Mayor K. Nelson inquired about installing better lights on the basketball court possibly putting the light on a timer. Russ Vandenheuvel was asked to inform the school about people parking on the west side of the street on Central Ave S by the school.

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

***5. Consider Business Items***

***A. Pond Easement Road – Mayor K. Nelson address the reason why the council is***

***dealing with this issue.***

* ***Ensure the safety of our city employees*** –installing two solar automatic powered gates for $8,812.00 and a trailer to transport the mower for $3,600.00
* ***Properly maintaining the easement road for years to come –****two options-Hauling in one to two loads of fill each year for about $600.00. The other option install a 3 strand wire on both sides of the easement road for about $8,000.00. The advantage of this would eliminate the extra cost of gates and no need to purchase a trailer.*
* ***Legal issues-*** who would be responsible for the cost.

At 5:00 p.m. prior to the meeting Mr. Greenwaldt made a proposal to the mayor to sell the easement road (66 feet) for $25,000.00. Mr. Greenwaldt agreed to build a fence on the south side of the road to keep the cattle from crossing the road and pay for the cost to have it surveyed. He would not put cattle to the north of the road. The council agreed that the city should make a counter offer of $20,000. The council felt by purchasing the easement road would eliminate any future problems. The reason the city is having problems with the easement road was when the deed was recorded nothing was written down on who would be responsible for maintenance.

B. ***Manhole Rehab –*** Mr. Templin is still waiting to get information back from a contractor.

**6. CONSIDER 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 Member D. Nelson and seconded by Member Bowman to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, with all members present voting in favor. The following agenda items include the following:

1. Approval of the March 11, 2019 Regular Council Minutes
2. Approval of the March Disbursements & Authorized Issuance in accordance with the list provided including all electronic payments.
3. Review Bank Correspondence –Bank Statement & Investment Report
4. Approve Zoning Permit 2019-01, 309 4th Street NW, 8X10 shed will be placed on the current gravel pad. Previously, there was a shed that was removed. Variance 2019-02 was requested to install a new shed which would encroach into the minimum required side yard setbacks. An application is on file signed by the abutting property owner agreeing to allow Richard Mettler to install a new shed in the same location.
5. 2018 Consumer Confidence Report - submitted to the Department of Health yearly, just a snap shot of power/water quality is for the City over the past year (posted on website & City Hall). The complete report is on file at the City Clerk’s Office. Each year, all community water systems must distribute a drinking water report to their customers. Since our population is under 500, the city only is required to post a notice that states the report is available upon request.
6. Approving Resolution 2019-11 adjusting the fire service charge of $400.00 per hour to $500.00 per hour.
7. Approve Resolution 2019-12 authorizing the write-off of uncollectible ambulance bills for collection by MN Recapture Agency and direct the city clerk to remove the accounts from active receivables of the City of Bertha, said accounts being detailed in the officials’ files of the City. Expert T Billing has determined that certain accounts, shown on the resolution are uncollectible.
8. Set May 11th for Public Hearing concerning two delinquent utility bills, if not paid by May 1st. Letters will be sent to each party informing them of the public hearing.

Council questioned Expert T Billing procedures since there currently are a lot of bills written off and sent to Mn Recapture for recovery. They instructed me to set up a meeting with them to discuss billing procedures.

Mayor K. Nelson asked the city clerk to send a thank you note to the Bertha-Hewitt School to the students that volunteered their time to remove snow around the fire hydrants.

***7. Committee Reports***

None

***8. Correspondence/Meeting/Conference***

***A.*** Election 2020- information from conference –Fair to say that March 3, 2020, is shaping up to be a pretty big Presidential primary day. This will be the first and largest multistate presidential primary held.

B. The City of Bertha is due for its next property appraisal. HCA will visit on April 15th to do all buildings and all property-in-the-open that are scheduled with values over $1 million. Each LMCIT member receives an appraisal once every seven years at no charge to the city.

C. The Board of Appeal and Equalization for the City of Bertha is scheduled for April 17th at 10:00 a.m. at the Community Center. One member of the council must be certified by the Department of Revenue.

D. Reviewed the letter from the new Todd County Coordinator notifying the city he is in the process of holding a meeting for all city/township clerks.

E. Information from the LMC in regards of the Democrats trying to pushing legislation for “National Popular Vote” instead of the Electoral College.

F. Provided the council with information on “Adopt-A-Hydrant Program. The residents would be able to adopt a hydrant and be responsible for the area around the hydrant to be free of snow and weeds.

**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 in favor, motion was carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. Carried.**