

CITY OF BERTHA
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF BERTHA
HELD AT THE BERTHA COMMUNITY CENTER
July 12, 2021

Members Present: Mayor Olson, Members Captain, Winkler, Nelson and Hoffman

Staff Present: Clerk Umland & Chase Graba

Guest Present: Pete Wallner, Russ Vandenheuvel, Amy Botzet, Brenda Roberts, Marv Stokes, Alex Weego, Jerry Nelson, Matt Cardinal, Ben Harnack & Dean Klebs.

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. Public Hearings –None

4. Communications Reports

A. Review the enterprise reports for June – No Comments

B. Public Safety Reports - Chief Wallner gave a brief report on Bertha Days and suggested that a few changes need to be made for 2022.

Director Vandenheuvel stated that it has been slow. He stated that Dr. Pate encouraged him to attend the Minnesota EMS Medical Directors Conference in Alexandria in September. Motion by Member Hoffman, seconded by Member Nelson approving Mr. Vandenheuvel attendance at the MN EMS Medical Directors Conference at Arrowwood Conference Center in September with registration fee of \$350.00. Carried.

C. Law Enforcement – Todd County Sheriff Department provided a June activity report which summarizes the 30 calls received in their department during the month of June: 3-animal complaints, 1-civil issue, 1-gas drive-off, 1-theft, 2-car/deer, 1-public assist, 10 traffic stops and 11 misc.

D. Public Works Report – Mr. Graba provided the council with his June activity report which summarizes work done within his department.

- * Improvements at the park were done to correct the violations that were issued during the state inspection.

- * Mn Health Department inspected the wells and water system. The city passed inspection with a few items needing improvements.

- * Thein Well is scheduled to pull pumps the end of July/beginning of August.

- *Bertha Days Preparation

Maintenance report included topics of discussion- full time employee, John Deere 1025R snow removal attachments and fire proof steel cabinet. At this time, the council acted only on the steel safety cans storage cabinet. **Motion** by Member Hoffman, seconded by Member Nelson to approve purchasing a 45-gallon capacity safety can storage cabinet for \$849.95 from USA BlueBook. Carried. This cabinet meets OSHA requirement to store flammable liquids.

Other items of discussion for public works were recycling bin and job description for maintenance worker.

E. Clerk Overview – for council information only

5. Unscheduled Public Appearance

Amy Botzet, 205 4th St. N.-had questions about the alley adjacent to her property.

Pete Wallner – suggested changing our zoning ordinance prohibiting shipping containers.

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 Olson asked if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections to be made to the Consent Agenda. Clerk Umland requested an amendment to the Consent Agenda by adding Item 6E – Bertha-Hewitt School Calendar and Photo Page Ads. It was moved by Winkler, and seconded by Nelson to approve the amended Consent Agenda. All voted in favor of the motion. The consent agenda included the following:

- A. *Approval of the June 14, 2021 Regular City Council Minutes & Public Hearing Minutes*
- B. *Approval of the June Disbursements & Authorize Issuance in accordance with the list provided including all electronic payments plus July Check Nos. 18621-18637 in the amount of \$19,926.09.*
- C. *Review Bank Correspondence- Bank Statement & Investment Report*
- D. *A request from Initiative Foundation for support in the amount of \$410.00 which will be included in the 2022 budget.*
- E. *Approval of the 2021-2022 Bertha-Hewitt School Calendar and Photo Page in the amount of \$420.00.*

7. Consider Business Items

A. Nuisance Property – the committee will do a follow-up inspection at the residents that did not meet compliance last time. No extension will be given and a list of non-compliance owners will be then turned over to law enforcement.

B. Broadband Communications-Mr. Weego was in attendance and stated that he received correspondence from Blandin Foundation that they are interested in becoming another player. Blandin Foundation is interested in offering to a select group of counties to help improve broadband access and adoption. Blandin is recruiting six rural counties to participate in their ***Blandin Broadband Communities program***. Alex stated working with Hometown Fiber and the Blandin program can complement each other. He suggested the council attend the Zoom webinar on Wednesday.

Councilmember Nelson introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption
Resolution 2021-26

Northwest Todd County Broadband Coalition Broadband Improvement Resolution

The northern part of Todd County has seen little in the way of recent broadband investment by existing providers. Mr. Weego felt we should see what Blandin has to offer and work with school district, townships and other cities to get best bang for our buck which is a two year program. The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Councilmember Hoffman and upon vote taken unanimously carried.

C. Tax-Forfeit Property – Property ID 29-0003201 is the “old Marlowson Event Center”, the parcel forfeited to the State of Minnesota for non-payment of property taxes. Todd County Auditor is requesting that the city approve the parcel for public auction, request conveyance to the city for public use or purchase the property at the appraised value. Last week some of the councilmembers toured the event center.

MOTION was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Winkler, to adopt **Resolution 2021-21 Acquiring Acquisition of Tax Forfeited Property-Parcel 29-0003201**. Carried. The

City of Bertha is acquiring the property for the purpose of a public service facility. The city will acquire the parcel for free but have to pay a \$250.00 filing fee with the state.

D. Approve the application to combine parcels- Applicant proposes to combine seven parcels of land into one parcel. The Bertha-Hewitt School provided the city with an electronic copy of the new lot consolidation plat from their surveyor. Nelson moved to approve the Combine Parcels Application from the Bertha-Hewitt School as presented. Winkler seconded, carried 5-0.

8. Committee Reports – None

9. Correspondence/Meeting/Conference

A. Hilltop Kitchen – A request from Hilltop Regional Kitchen was received asking the city to consider a donation to the kitchen in 2022. The request is in the amount of \$1.00 per resident, which is \$479.00 for the City of Bertha. Motion by Member Captain, seconded by Member Nelson approving the donation to Hilltop Regional Kitchen in the amount of \$479.00 for the budget year of 2022. Carried.

B. Small Cities Development Grant – Owner Occupied Housing -The City of Bertha has not heard if they have awarded grant money for housing yet. The announcement was to be made between June 15 and middle of July.

C. Small Cities Newsletter - Information only.

10. Adjournment

There was no further business to come before the City Council. Member Nelson moved; Member Winkler seconded the motion to adjourn. With all members in favor, motion was carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. Carried.