***CITY OF BERTHA***

*Regular Meeting of the City of Bertha*

*Held at the Bertha Community Center*

*March 9, 2020*

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

***Members Absent:*** Mayor K. Nelson

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

***Guest Present:*** Pete Wallner, Karen Winkler, Brenda Roberts, Amy Botzet, Trinity Gruenberg, Jacob

Weishar(Deputy representing Todd County Sheriff Department), Steve Kuhnke, Eric

Koep and Russ Vandenhuevel.

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

***Public Hearing:***

*USDA Rural Development Grant Application* –the purpose of this Public Hearing is to satisfy a public participation requirement for eligibility in the USDA Community Facility Program grant to acquire a new emergency vehicle. The grant will help fund a portion of the cost of a new ambulance. Steve Kuhnke questioned the cost of the new ambulance. It was explained the old ambulance will be purchased by the fire department for a rescue unit.

***Adjourn Public Hearing:*** D. Nelson made a motion to adjourn at 6:38 p.m., seconded by Bowman, motion carried.

Regular monthly meeting was re-opened.

***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.

Acting Mayor Olson asked if anyone had any comments or concerns on anything which was not on the agenda.

Eric Koep informed the council on the upcoming 2020 Bertha-Hewitt School District 786 Referendum. The District 786 special election will take place in April 14th. Superintendent, Eric Koep, will hold several community meetings to share more about the project. The tax increases involved will be minimal. A rough example shows a $100,000 valued house will see an increase of $17.00 annually. If the referendum passes, the school plans to:

1. Remodel the science labs which are over 40 years old.
2. Update and expand the greenhouse
3. Add a secure entry for visitors
4. Remodel the cafeteria
5. Add classroom space- especially for students with sensory needs
6. Expand the entrepreneurial programs
7. Add a fitness center

Nearly 40% of the bonding will be covered by state aide. The new School Building Bond Agricultural tax credit means a 50% tax break on the cost of existing, proposed, & future construction bond issues – the tax break will be paid by the state of Minnesota. He answered all citizens’ questions that were directed to him. The completion date is set for April, 2021. It was suggested to better promote activities that are school sponsored.

***4. Communication Reports***

***A. Review the Enterprise Reports for February –*** no questions

***B. Fire/Ambulance Reports -*** Chief Wallner informed the council that the FEMA grant was submitted and township contracts were presented at the annual meeting with the townships. Ambulance Director Vandenheuvel presented the first quarter ambulance statistics report. He asked permission to purchase clothing items for the department with funds raised by the department. Motion by Bowman, seconded by Member Captain to allow the ambulance department to spend up to $750.00 to purchase t-shirts and hoodies for volunteers from the ambulance fund earned from their fundraisers. Carried. The department will be transitioning to electronic reporting.

***C. Law Enforcement-***Todd County Sheriff Department provided a February activity report that summarizes the calls received in their department during the month. The monthly report showed the following violations for Bertha: 1-accident, 1-animal complaint, 1-assist other agencies, 2-damage to property, 1-scam, 1-theft, 3-traffic stops and 10 misc. calls. Deputy Weishar informed the council that all members of the department are staffed with body cameras.

***D. Public Works Report –*** Mr. Templin provided the council with his February activity report which summarizes work done within his department. His activity report included replacement of leaking water valve, repair of a broken sewer line. The council has received complaints from residents on their water being yellow. The city clerk office will keep a list of residents that have bad water and will have it tested. Mr. Templin received two quotes to get the sewer line repaired on County Road 24 by Salon Renew. Ideal Construction estimate of $3,488.00 was for asphalt patching (16X30) which includes saw cutting and 6 inches of asphalt. Braaten Aggregrate gave a quote to haul out old material and haul in new material for $2,946.00.

***E. Clerk’s Review-***for review only of the agenda

***5. Consider Business Items***

***A. Emergency Vehicle Update-***The application is complete(w/the exception of the public hearing). Mr. Scholten submitted it for review last week, but has not heard anything back as of Monday. If the review results in approval, then USDA can move forward with the funding. He felt by the end of the week he would know. There was a discussion if we should order the new emergency vehicle. Motion by Member D. Nelson, seconded by Member Bowman to approve Resolution 2020-12 to purchase a new Horton Ambulance as provided by the quote from Premier Specialty Vehicles with optional items included for $235,038.00 pending written authorization from USDA. Carried. Member Nelson was worried that this could jeopardize receiving grant funds so wanted written proof. Once USDA gives approval, then Mr. Vandenheuvel will be able to enter into a contract with PSV for the new vehicle. USDA Rural Development will provide the City of Bertha a $50,000 Community Facility Program grant, if approved, along with $185,000 from the ambulance fund will be used to purchase the new vehicle.

***B. Sanitary Sewer Main –*** The city attorney is still working with Wagner Construction trying to see what company is negligence with boring through the sewer line.

***C. Housing Rehab Grant Application –*** The council reviewed the preliminary proposal for full application writing and general program administration and decided to table it until April to see if Hewitt would partner with Bertha. In order to have a better chance at getting grant dollars, there needs to be greater involvement when two cities partner.

***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.***

***Acting Mayor Olson asked if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections to be made to the Consent Agenda. Motion by Member D. Nelson, seconded by Member Captain to approve the consent agenda as presented. Carried. The consent agenda included the following items:***

1. ***Approved the February 10, 2020 Regular Council Minutes***
2. ***Approval of the February Disbursements & Authorize Issuance in accordance with the list provided including all electronics payments – along with Claims No. 17762-17767 in the amount of $5,733.53.***
3. ***Review Bank Correspondence –Bank Statements & Investment Report***
4. ***Resolution 2020-11: Resolution Accepting Donation from Jackie Dettberner & Todd-Wadena Electric Operation Round Up –*** Council considered Resolution 2020-11, a resolution accepting a total of $1,650.00 from the above two parties to be used towards the cost of a new emergency vehicle.
5. ***Bertha Firemen Relief Association – Bear Country Days Request-*** The council was presented with a one-four day temporary On-Sale Liquor License application from the Bertha Relief Association. The Relief Association is holding a tractor pull at 2nd Street NW/Meadow Street and selling alcohol during the dance at 115 2nd Ave NW. The dance area will be fence in to avoid people roaming around town with alcohol. Once proof of insurance is provided for the licensed period the application will be submitted to the state.
6. ***Discuss Street Closing for a Graduation Party-***Discussion was held concerning closing off 1st Street SE between 2nd Ave SE and Alley at 1st Street SE on May 23, 2020, from 10:30 a.m. until 6:30 p.m.
7. ***Resolution 2020-13 applying for a FEMA grant-***Fire Chief Wallner informed the council that the 2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant by FEMA is now open. The Federal Grant Funds would be used for personal protective gear that would be purchased in 2021. The grant is a matching grant with 5% match. This resolution hereby authorizes and designates the Fire Chief & City Clerk, as designee, to sign any agreements with the Office of Domestic Preparedness on behalf of the City of Bertha.
8. Consider Approval of a Minnesota Lawful Gambling LG220 Application for Exempt Permit submitted by the Bertha Firemen’s Relief Association for a raffle on July 11,2020.
9. ***Committee Report***
10. ***Bear Country Days –*** Member D. Nelson reported on the upcoming Bear Country Days and stated everything was going well. There was a discussion on opening the Bertha Community Center for the use of the restrooms. There were pros and cons discuss about opening it to the public. No decision was made how to partition the area off so people don’t go into other areas. A letter from Friendly Rider was given to Member D. Nelson to follow thru with concerning bringing individuals to the Bear Country parade.
11. ***Correspondence/Meeting/Conference***
12. Minnesota Small Cities Bulletin – for the council to read –informing the council on issue that the board of MN Cities is working on with the legislature.
13. Dangerous & unsafe buildings - an example of the letter was presented to the council to be sent to the property owner of 109 4th Street NW. Member D. Nelson stated that we should work on the old creamery wash bay to pursue that property with the county.
14. **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 present in favor, motion was carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. Carried.