**CITY OF BERTHA**

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF BERTHA**

**HELD AT THE BERTHA COMMUNITY CENTER**

MARCH 8, 2021

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

Staff Present: Clerk Umland & Public Works Templin

Guest: Joel Betswinger, Thomas Mayfield, Kim Aargard, Amy Botzet, Pete Wallner, Russ Vandenheuvel, Tyler Hoffman, Carol Wendorf, Agnes Mack, Lori McKnight and Christine Pierce.

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

***Public Hearing -Called to Order at 6:35 p.m. A notice of the public hearing was published in the Independent News Herald for issuing the Obligations and the proposal to undertake and finance and refinance the projects during the construction phase of Tri-County Healthcare.***

Joel Betswinger gave an update on the status of the project.

Thomas Mayfield with National Healthcare Capital LLC discussed bonding with Tri-County Healthcare. The city will be involved with the interim financing of the project. Once the project is completed the city will be released and USDA will be involved. USDA will not fund the construction part of the project. Tri-County Healthcare will pay all expenses and this will not impact the City’s bond rating. We are only acting as a host city to help Tri-County get a better interest rate. No one in attendance commented. Motion by Member Nelson, seconded by Member Winkler to close the public hearing at 6:35 p.m. Carried

***3. Unscheduled Public Appearance:***

Carol Wendorf -113 1st Ave SE & Agnes Mack-216 1st Ave NE inquired about giving the ambulance a spare key to their house in case of an emergency. Mr. Vandenheuvel has a ring of keys that people have given him already and he will add them to it.

Amy Botzet – 205 4th Street NW – addressed the council about providing more truck parking so the drivers don’t have to park on streets. There a brief discussion on semi parking and Mr. Templin will provide the council with different options at the April meeting.

**4. Communication Reports-**

**A. Review the enterprise reports for February – No comments**

**B. Public Safety Reports -** Chief Wallner said he received an application for the fire department. The rescue rig is painted and they are waiting for the decals. Mr. Vandenheuvel provided the council with 1st quarter statistics. The crew went on 51 calls. He requested that public works wash the new vehicle once a week to prevent rust. He felt the volunteers shouldn’t have to do it. It was suggested to have Scott P. take responsibility in washing the rig. He also ask the council to form a committee to discuss housing for out of town volunteers to stay when on call.

**C. *Law Enforcement-*** Todd County Sheriff Department provided a February activity report which summarizes the calls received in their department during the month of February: 1-alarm, 3-ambulance, 1-animal complaint, 1 –assist other agencies, 1- disturbance, 2-fire, 1-follow-up, 1-information, 1-liaison officer incident, 1-lost dog, 1-suspicious activity, 8-traffic stops, 1 –warrant check and 2 –welfare checks. The city is having issues with some of the dogs owners that are violating the city code.

***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 : Carr’s Tree Service , fire hydrant leak which will cost approximately $10,000 to repair, updated Wellhead Protection Plan and dog issues. Mr. Templin submitted a bid from Triple S Services to have two stumps removed on city property for $104.00. The council asked him to provide him with another bid. The maintenance crew removed some bricks from the museum that have come loose and have fallen on the sidewalk. They want the city staff to check if there is grant available for fixing up a historical building. Mr. Wallner will have the new bridge installed by the end of May.

***E. Clerk’s Review –***is an overview of the agenda only for council use.

***5. Consider Business Items***

***A. 2021 Small Cities Development Program-***A brief summary of the overall application from the public hearing prior to the regular meeting. The cities of Bertha and Hewitt propose to provide SCDP funding to rehabilitate 16 owner-occupied single-family homes within the designated city limits of each respective city. The number of accepted applications/projects will be split evenly between the two communities for the first year of the grant period. Owner-occupied rehabilitation activities will meet the LMI Federal Objective by serving households at or below the HUD 80% area median income limits for Todd County. The owner-occupied target areas for each city are the city limits, with a focus on areas where the highest concentration of homes in need of rehabilitation are located. Improvements made in each community will substantially benefit the entire community by maintaining affordable housing stock and property values. The improvements will also benefit the overall appearance of neighborhoods and make the homes more comfortable, safe and energy efficient. Central Minnesota Housing Partnership will submit the final application, and if successful, administer the program funds. After another brief discussion regarding the grant: ***Nelson moved, Captain second, motion carried to approve signing of a cooperative agreement (Resolution 2021-09) that explains Bertha, MN and Hewitt, MN’s cooperative efforts to work together in obtaining a SCDP Grant.***

***B. 2021 Insurance Package-*** The council was provided with a copy of the 2021 Insurance Package to review. There was an increase in the overall premium of 6.7%. It appears that part of the increase is due to the addition of the new ambulance , as well as increases to payroll which increased the Workers Compensation. Because all of the volunteer firemen are non-smokers, the city qualified for a discount of $320.00. It was suggested about a different insurance company. The LMCIT Insurance Trust was created because outside insurance agencies were too expensive for cities to use. The league is the best option for the price.

***A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER NELSON SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER CAPTAIN, TO APPROVE THE 2021 CITY OF BERTHA INSURANCE COVERAGE RENEWAL THROUGH THE LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA CITIES INSURANCE TRUST FOR A TOTAL OF $28,243.00. CARRIED.***

***C. Consider filling a vacancy on the City Council***

Councilmember Nelson introduced the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

***Resolution No. 2021-05***

***A RESOLUTION APPOINTING TYLER HOFFMAN TO FILL A VACANCY***

The Bertha City Council declared last month that a council seat became vacant due to Member Olson being appointed to fill the position of Mayor. The council then decided to wait until the March meeting to fill the council position.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Captain and upon vote taken unanimously carried. The city received applications from three residents that were interested in filling the position.

***D. Region 5 Development Commission Community Energy & Environmental Planning Program***

R5DC is in the process of submitting the USDA Rural Community Development Initiative Grant along with a matching grant from Sourcewell.

***E. Resolution 2021-10 Issuance of a Health Care Facilities Revenue Note***

Tri-County Healthcare intends to construct a new hospital and clinic facility beginning this summer, with a target opening date of 2023. The site of the new hospital is at the northwest corner of U.S. Highway 10 and 11th Street Northwest. Portion of the existing hospital and clinic complex will be remodeled and continue to support certain operations. Tri-County will require financing for most of this project along with the existing long-term debt. The USDA prefers projects of this size that a portion of the long-term financing be extended by other parties. Thus, they are asking the City of Bertha to get involved for the construction phase of the financing which is only short-term. Our city attorney has reviewed all the documents and gave it a go ahead.

The following resolution was introduced by Member Captain and seconded by Member Nelson.

***Resolution 2021-10***

***Resolution Approving the Issuance of a Health Care Facilities Revenue Note, Series 2021***

Tri-County Health Care Project

All present voted in favor of the resolution, none in opposition thereto. The Mayor declared the resolution passed and adopted. The complete resolution is on file at the City Clerk’s Office if wishing to review it.

***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. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Member Winkler to approve the consent agenda as presented. Carried. The consent agenda included the following:

1. Approval of the February 8, 2021 Regular Council Minutes
2. Approval of the February Disbursement & Authorize Issuance in accordance with the list provided including all electronic payments plus Check Nos. 18393 &94 and 18411-18414 in the amount of $3,433.50
3. Review Bank Correspondence – Bank Statement & Investment Reports
4. Approval of the 2021 Fire Service Standby Fee – The standby fee is a fee charged to the townships for having the Bertha Fire Department available to provide services. This fee is billed directly to the township on an annual basis. The 2021 fee will remain the same as last year. The township standby fee is: City of Bertha-$9,322.00, Woodside Township-$6,152.52, Bertha Township-$7,271.16, Bartlett Township-$2,796.60, Moran Township-$1,817.79, Germania Township-$5,127.10 and Stowe Prairie Township -$1,584.74
5. ***Resolution 2021-11-***Accepting a $200.00 donation from Neils’ Service to be split between the ambulance and fire department to be used for equipment.

***7. Committee Report-none***

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

***A.*** Rental of the Community Center – The council felt we should hold off renting out the community center until at least June. The public works was asked to give it a good cleaning along with painting the interior walls.

**B. Home Town Fiber –** installing fiber internet in the city. The cost would partially be covered by grants. They are hoping that area cities would go along with it.

**C. League of Mn Cities – information on Post-traumatic stress disorder-**have created a online public safety PTSD and Mental Health Toolkit.

***D. Special Assessment on Tax-Forfeited Land –*** The Catholic Church has paid in full the special assessment on the lot they have purchased. Allen Schahn the city cannot re-assess until the Confession of Judgment has been satisfied. Parcel 29-0012500 purchased by Folkestad Properties has contacted the city to cancel the public nuisance assessment. He has paid the 2019 & 2020 water/sewer assessment off. The council is hesitant about forgiven that assessment and would like to discuss this with him.

***9. 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 8:23 p.m. Carried.