CITY OF BERTHA

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF BERTHA

HELD AT THE BERTHA COMMUNITY CENTER

OCTOBER 11, 2021

***Members Present:*** Mayor Olson, Members Captain, Winkler, Nelson & Hoffman

***Staff Present:*** Clerk Umland & Public Works Chase Graba

***Guest Present:*** Pete Wallner, Russ Vandenheuvel, Brenda Roberts, Allen Becker, Dick Smith

Zach Johnson, Brent Lind.

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

***Public Hearings: None***

***4. Communications Reports***

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

***B. Public Safety Reports – Chief*** Wallner stated that October 3-9th was National Fire Prevention Week and that the fire safety at the school went well. A letter was received from FEMA thanking the department for applying for assistance under the fiscal year 2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. After careful consideration and review, the application did not score high enough to receive further consideration. Mr. Wallner stressed the importance of new personal protective clothing since their current uniforms are outdated. The department might have to purchase new uniforms out of their budget which will cost $70,000. Mr. Smith, who was attendance deals with selling fire equipment and has contact with other fire departments, will watch for good used protective clothing for our department. Zach Johnson explained that the Relief Association would like the council to consider increasing the annual lump sum benefit amount for firefighter’s pension. Benefits are payable in a lump sum based on years of service. The volunteers don’t become eligible for any retirement proceeds until after 10 years of service. The accountant has reviewed the actuarial and supports that the department is sound and would be able to cover an increase without the city financial support. The association provided a draft copy from the auditor showing that the investment were sound and would handle increasing the lump sum to $2,100/$2,300. It is currently at $1,900. The association would like to increase it by at least $200.00 to minimize cost and paperwork of increasing it every year. The council will make a decision at the November meeting which would be effective the first of the year.

Ambulance – Mr. Vandenheuvel gave a brief report for his department. The department has not yet decided on the brand defibrillator to purchase for the department. Mr. Vandenheuvel has purchased a Dell Latitude 5420 Rugged computer for the ambulance rig at a cost of $2,508.88.

***C. Law Enforcement Report-***Todd County Sheriff Department provided the council with the September activity report which summarizes the 29 calls received in their department in September: 1-alarm test, 1-child abuse, 1-disturbance, 1-scam, 1-stop arm violation, 2-theft, 8 traffic stops, 2 welfare checks and 12 miscellaneous.

***D. Public Works Report –*** Mr. Graba provided the council with his September activity report which summarizes the work done within his department. His activity report included: patchwork was completed, attended a three day course for his wastewater test, pre discharge testing was completed, locating water/sewer at Brent Lind, annual inspection on both wells, and picked up plow truck and had it DOT inspected.

***Topic of Discussion***

1. Johnson Jet-Line – review the price quote for 5 year sanitary sewer maintenance program – hoping to have it run from 2022 thru 2026. The desired level of service would include clean and televise the lines.
2. Metal Detector – He would like to replace the old metal detector. Motion by Member Nelson, seconded by Member Winkler approving the purchase of a new metal detector  ***not to exceed $800.00***. Carried. The council suggested that if he had questions to work with Member Winkler prior to purchasing the new equipment

E. Clerk’s Overview-for informational purpose only

5. ***Unscheduled Public Appearance:***

Brent Lind – 408 Main St. E - is having trouble locating the curb stop for his waterline going to the new structure. The water line is holding pressure but need to find the shut off. Currently, it was discovered that the adjacent neighbor’s curb stop is on Lind’s property. Mr. Lind is requesting that the city provide him with his own curb stop. There was a lengthy discussion if the city was responsible. When the 2012 water/sewer project was done the contractor must have made an error. On Highway 24 East you can see where the pavement was cut and patch but no curb stop can be located. His feeling is that the city should be responsible for correcting the mistake. The connection shall not be covered until after it has been inspected by Mr. Graba. Motion by Member Hoffman, seconded by Member Captain approving that the city is responsible for the cost of the curb stop and Mr. Lind is responsible for all expenses occurred for connecting to the curb stop. Carried. He will provide an escalator and contact a license plumber. Graba was concerned about the legality of connecting Lind’s line to the neighbor’s service.

***6. Consider the Consent Agenda –action required***

***Note:*** The Consent Agenda listed those items of business which are considered to be routine and/or which need no discussion. Consent items are acted upon by one motion. If discussion is desired by council, that item may be moved 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 Winkler to accept the consent agenda as presented with Item E (Johnson Jet Contract) removed. Carried. The consent agenda included the following:

1. Approval of the September 13, 2021 Regular City Council Minutes
2. Approval of the September Disbursement & Authorize Issuance in accordance with the list provided including all electronic payments plus October Checks Nos. 18820-18827 in the amount of $6,355.42.
3. Review Bank Correspondence –Bank Statement & Investment Report
4. *Resolution 2021-33 Designating Polling Place for the 2022 Elections-*The city is required on an annual basis to designate by Resolution the polling place that will be utilized for elections.
5. Consider awarding the annual sewer cleaning/televising job to Johnson Jet-Line Inc –Removed Item until next meeting due to changing the date of the five year contract from January, 2021 -2025 to January, 2022 thru 2026

**7. Consider Business Items**

A. Nuisance Properties – no update

B. Broadband Communications – meeting scheduled for middle of October

Mr. Graba is in the process of updating his computer to laptop. The council discussed contracting with Josh Olson to do our IT work. Motion by Hoffman, seconded by Captain to hire Josh Olson for our computer needs at $48.00 per hour. Carried with Mayor Olson abstaining due to conflict of interest. After the first of the year, the council will evaluate and see if we need to contract his service on a monthly basis.

C. Marlowson Event Center – All the paperwork has been provided to the County Auditor. The Conditional Use Application will be sent to the State for their final approval, all fees needed to be paid up front to process the documents. If the state does not approve, the fees would be refunded-this process takes approximately 2-4 weeks.

OPEN BIDS – Lawnmowers & Snowplow Truck

***1994 Ford L8000 Snowplow Truck***

\* Tim Jasmer - $4,300.00

Darrin Eggert - $1,500.00

***Toro Groundmaster 325-D***

\*Scott Hillig-$575.00

Darrin Eggert - $500.00

Ray Brasel - $460.00

Langdon Collum - $450.00

Jerry Nelson - $250.00

Rich Hurtig - $200.00

***Kubota F3680 with broom & cab***

***\****Matt Cardinal - $2,500.00

Scott Hillig - $1,255.00

Ray Brasel - $1,210.00

Allen Becker - $841.99

Darrin Eggert - $500.00

Langdon Collum - $450.00

Darrell Hoemberg - $350.00

Jerry Nelson - $250.00

Rich Hurtig - $225.00

***Motion*** by Member Nelson, seconded by Member Winkler to accept the highest bid for each of the three city owned equipment that was for sell. Carried

***8. Committee Reports –***

***A.*** Public Works Maintenance Employee – the city did not receive any application since the last meeting. The personnel committee will set up a meeting with the one application they received the first time they advertised.

**9. Correspondence/Meeting/Conference**

A. Small Cities Development Grant – A letter was sent out to all residents of Bertha informing them that the Cities of Bertha & Hewitt’s application for Small Cities Development Program funding was approved. Central Minnesota Housing Partnership will act as the General Administrator of the program, and Messina Owings will be the contact person. The environmental review for both cities is underway. They are anticipating the kickoff meeting to be held in January or February.

B. Energy and Environment Planning – Received a letter from Region Five letting us know that Region 5 received the USDA dollars to fully fund the Energy & Environment Planning process allowing 10 more communities to further this work. This will involve four meeting with a 5-person team. The team will consist of residents from the community. Project(s) can be anything resulting from energy & environment planning process, from rainwater gardens to reduce storm runoff, to emergency back-up generator for critical loads, to water quality work, solar deployment, led lighting and energy efficient equipment. The project dollars will allow dollars to directly support initiatives working to make our energy and environment better.

***10 Adjournment***

There was no further business to come before the City Council. Member Nelson moved; Member Hoffman seconded the motion to adjourn. With all members in favor, motion was carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. Carried.