

**BIG LAKE CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MINUTES
AUGUST 12, 2020**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Wallen called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Council Members present: Seth Hansen, Paul Knier, Mike Wallen, and Scott Zettervall. Also present: City Administrator Clay Wilfahrt, Finance Director Deb Wegeleben, City Engineer Layne Otteson, Police Chief Joel Scharf, City Clerk Gina Wolbeck, Liquor Store Manager Greg Zurbey, and Big Lake School Liaison Ella Dotzler.

3. PROPOSED AGENDA

Council Member Hansen motioned to adopt the proposed Agenda as presented. Seconded by Council Member Knier, unanimous ayes, Agenda adopted.

4. BUSINESS

4A. Freedom Rock Update and Presentation of New Location

Layne Otteson discussed choosing an alternative location option for placement of the Freedom Rock project at Lakeside Park and introduced representatives from the "Citizens for the Big Lake Freedom Rock" project. The rock that has been chosen is larger than originally planned and will require more space for site preparation and utility work. It was also discussed that the previous location by the water tower could be problematic if the City has to get large equipment into the area to maintain the nearby City facilities.

Karen Blake provided an update on the Freedom Rock project. Blake requested Council approval on the new site location at the northwest edge of the parking lot at Lakeside Park. Discussion was held on the overall design of the project and the priority of not disturbing the root system of established trees in their selected new location.

Linda Paulson provided an update on the status of bringing the rock to Big Lake. The rock and transport costs have been donated, and a crane service is also donating their services as well. Paulson informed Council that September 19 has been identified for a transport/set date and they would like to advertise this event. The artist is scheduled to start sometime in 2021, and Paulson noted that fundraising will be ongoing. Paulson also indicated that they would like to do some improvements around the rock before the painting is started. The group would like to gain funding momentum and they feel bringing the rock in and placing it will generate activity. They plan to offer pavers for sale that will have a veterans name, branch, and service imprinted on them. The group anticipates that the sale of 300 pavers is expected to fund the painting expenses.

The general consensus of the Council was to allow a location change for the Freedom Rock to the northwest edge of the parking lot at Lakeside Park.

4B. Public Input Hearing Date Discussion

Deb Wegeleben reviewed that in May 2020, the City Council set the Public Input Hearing (PIH) date to be held during the 2nd meeting in November. The Council also changed the date for this meeting to be held on Tuesday, November 24th due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. The State of MN recently announced dates to hold the PIH. The earliest we can hold the PIH is Wednesday, November 25th. Wegeleben reviewed options the Council has regarding resetting the date of our PIH. We can change the 2nd meeting in November back to Wed., Nov. 25th and set the PIH at that same meeting, with a continuation hearing date of Mon., Nov. 30th. Wegeleben expressed that if Council wishes to do this, Council should confirm that there will be a quorum of Council Members in attendance. The other option is to keep the 2nd meeting in November on Tues., Nov. 24th and set a Special Council Meeting date of Mon., Nov. 30th at 6pm to hold the PIH, with a continuation hearing date of Thurs., Dec. 3rd.

Council Member Knier questioned if holding the PIH the night before the holiday will impact citizens who wish to attend it. Mayor Wallen asked Staff how many people on average have attended previous PIH hearings. Wegeleben indicated that on average we only have a couple of attendees and most of those are more interested in contesting their house valuation.

The general consensus of the Council was to move the 1st meeting in November back to Wednesday, November 25 and hold the PIH during that meeting.

4C. Safe Routes to School Improvement Project Discussion

Layne Otteson reviewed the bids received on the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Improvement Project. In 2017, the City was awarded a Federal SRTS grant in the amount of \$89,796. The design and construction was scheduled to take place between 2018 to 2020 and bid the same year as a large City project, but as a separate project. The total project budget in the current CIP is \$139,796. Bids were opened on July 21, 2020 with the low bid coming in at \$144,164, which exceeded the engineer's estimate of \$112,244. Otteson informed Council that MnDOT has responded to the higher than expected bid amount with an increase to the original funding amount to \$115,331.20. Otteson reviewed project costs and funding breakdowns, and indicated Council has the option to reject the bids, or accept the low bid. Otteson noted that Staff believes that the increased grant contribution by MnDOT makes the project feasible, and recommended Council consider accepting the low bid and award at the next Council Meeting.

The Council unanimously directed Staff to move forward with the project as bid and bring an item to the next meeting for Council to consider awarding the project to the low bidder.

4D. New Ideas Discussion

Council Member Zetervall provided an update on the fall ATV parade which is expected to be held the fourth Saturday in September. Council Member Knier thanked Zetervall for inspiring the Big Lake Chamber of Commerce to coordinate these types of events as well.

5. **OTHER** – No other.

6. ADJOURN

Council Member Zetervall motioned to adjourn at 5:18 p.m. Seconded by Council Member Hansen, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Gina Wolbeck
City Clerk

08/26/2020
Date Approved By Council