

**BIG LAKE CITY COUNCIL
BIG LAKE TOWNSHIP
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 29, 2014**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Danielowski called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Council Members present: Mayor Raeanne Danielowski, Dick Backlund, and Mike Wallen. Council Members Nick Christenson and Seth Hansen were absent.

Big Lake Township Board Members present: Chair Bob Hofer, Larry Alford, Norm Leslie, and Steve Pflieger. Town Board Member Bruce Aubol was absent.

Also present: Finance Director Jessica Green, City Clerk Gina Wolbeck, Public Works Director Mike Goebel, Economic Development Manager Heidi Steinmetz, and Township Clerk Laura Hayes. Becker/Big Lake Ice Association Members in attendance: Pat Briggs, Ben Rusin, Christopher Boe, Tony Loftus, and Tonya Reasoner.

3. PROPOSED AGENDA

Council Member Wallen motioned to adopt the proposed Agenda as presented. Seconded by Town Board Member Alford, unanimous ayes, agenda adopted.

4. BUSINESS

4A. Becker/Big Lake Ice Association Discussion

Pat Briggs representing the Becker/Big Lake Ice Association (BBLIA) reviewed their organization's mission and objectives, previous efforts, ice arena benefits, and the ice arena building concept and funding plan. Briggs noted that funding expected from the State Bonding Bill did not materialize and that money collected from donations and pledges was used to purchase land that is still owned by the BBLIA. Briggs also reviewed their current building plans which are estimated to cost \$2.75 million. It was noted that the BBLIA has identified potential lenders and donors, and is exploring public funding sources and strategic partners. Briggs noted that the Association hired an energy consultant who previously worked with the Sartell Bernick's Rink project. Members also discussed the \$130,000 in back taxes that are due on the Association's property located in the Big Lake Marketplace Development and the trade deal that was offered to an adjacent property owner. Members explained that infrastructure would still need to be built to get access to

the site and that Special Assessments would have to be paid. Briggs reviewed the BBLIA financing plan which includes \$1,200,000 in debt service assumed by the BBLIA, \$1,000,000 in funds from fundraisers and private contributions, \$250,000 in donated time and services, and potentially \$300,000 in local government contributions which was added to fill the funding gap.

Council discussed that the City is not in a position to own an ice rink at this time, but that the City will continue to support the proposed project, just not in a financial sense. BBLIA Members explained that the donation of time and talent from the City and Township would be very welcome. Members also asked about the possibility of the Township donating any acreage. Council Members and Town Board Members encouraged the Association to get their land deal squared away and to work on finding a corporate sponsor. The Association was also encouraged to provide regular updates to the City and Township.

5. ADJOURN

Council Member Wallen motioned to adjourn at 7:24 p.m. Seconded by Council Member Backlund, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Gina Wolbeck
Recorder

05/14/14
Date Approved By Council