

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – February 22, 2011

Pursuant to due call and notice, a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Bemidji, Beltrami County, Minnesota, was held on Monday, February 22, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, Mayor Larson presiding.

Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Larson, Johnson, Hellquist, Albrecht, Negard, Thompson. Absent: Waldhausen

Staff Present: City Attorney Alan Felix, City Engineer Craig Gray, Finance Director Ron Eischens, Deputy City Clerk Michelle Miller,

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Mayor Larson called for any amendments to the agenda. The following changes were requested to the consent agenda:

- Removal of the request to Consider Temporary Use of City Hall Office Space for Race Relations Council/Shared Vision
- Add a request for Council travel for Rita Albrecht to St. Paul on February 23 for the Minnesota GO Steering Committee Meeting

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Thompson, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

MINUTES

Minutes of the February 7, 2011 regular meeting and February 14, 2011 work session were presented for approval. **Motion by Negard, seconded by Johnson, to approve the minutes as prepared. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

CONSENT AGENDA

The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval. **Motion by Johnson, seconded by Thompson, to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:**

1. Claims Submitted by Finance Officer in the amount of \$1,275,371.22
2. Miscellaneous Business License Renewals – 2011
3. Purchase of Truck for Utility Department – Nelson Auto Center in the amount of \$23,291 (not including tax & fees)
4. Accepted “Assistance to Firefighters Grant” from US Fire Administration in the amount of \$45,518
5. Travel Authorization - Albrecht to St. Paul on February 23, 2011 for the Minnesota GO Steering Committee Meeting

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

Pete Harrison, the new Park Manager for Lake Bemidji State Park introduced himself to Council members and provided a brief summary of upcoming events at the State Park.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – Lily Heltzer, BYA representative, provided an update on Commission activities.

PRESENTATION

Paul Richards, Widseth, Smith & Nolting, presented the Mayor and Council with an Honor Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies of Minnesota for its work on the South Shore Development Site Cleanup. Albrecht commended City Staff and staff of Widseth Smith & Nolting, among others, for all of the hard work done by all involved during the entire process of the cleanup.

NEW BUSINESS

DWI Court Request

Captain Bob Lehmann, member of the 9th Judicial District DWI Court requested \$10,000 from the City of Bemidji for fiscal year October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012 to help fund the “random compliance checks” completed by City of Bemidji Law Enforcement. For

the past 3-4 years, funding for the entire DWI Court program was in the form of grants from various entities. However, the grant money will run out September 30, 2011 and there are no further grant opportunities to apply for. The random compliance checks are a major key to the success of the program and to the success of the participants in completing the program. Council discussed the following:

- The success rate of the program.
- The ratio of City of Bemidji residents versus Beltrami County residents.
- Current business plan for the program.
- Involvement/funding from Beltrami County.
- Qualifications/eligibility for participation in the program.
- Advantages of participating in this program versus traditional court system.

Negard suggested a joint meeting with the County of Beltrami to discuss a plan for funding and collaboration between the City of Bemidji and the County of Beltrami for upcoming fiscal years of the program.

Motion by Negard, seconded by Albrecht, to fund \$10,000 from the liquor store funds to the DWI Court program for fiscal year October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012. Motion carried with the following vote: Ayes: Negard, Thompson, Hellquist, Larson, Johnson, Albrecht.

Consider Award of Bid for Wastewater Treatment Plant Digester Project – Project #10-04
 Craig Gray, Director of Public Works/City Engineer, reviewed the bids received on February 8, 2011, for the construction of a Wastewater Treatment Plant Digester Building. The bids were as follow:

Eagle Construction	\$4,211,000
Gridor Construction	\$4,444,600
Magney Construction	\$4,512,000
Rice Lake Construction	\$4,699,000
John Jones Construction	\$4,888,000
Robert Carr Company	\$5,020,000

Gray explained that the lowest bid is \$630,000 above the engineer’s estimate, mainly due to increases in structural, electrical, plumbing and HVAC costs. Gray went on to explain two rate increase options to help fund this project. Council discussed the following:

- The average increase in a resident’s sewer bill under the first option would be about \$7.00 per month.
- Qualifications of Eagle Construction for this project.
- Concern about significant change orders that could increase the cost of this project even more than the higher cost as earlier estimated.
- Appropriate timeline, i.e. start up and completion date.
- Savings from the new building with automation controls and improved efficiency which could reduce the need for new staff.

Motion by Hellquist, seconded by Johnson, to accept the Eagle Construction bid in the amount of \$4,211,000 for the construction of a Wastewater Treatment Plant Digester Building and approving a one-time sewer rate increase for 2012 of 15% with further rate increases being reduced to 2.5% depending on future capital needs. Motion carried with the following vote: Ayes: Thompson, Johnson, Albrecht, Hellquist, Negard, Larson.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Monday, March 7 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting
 - 5:45 p.m. Mayor & Council pictures
- Monday, March 14 5:30 p.m. Work Session – North Country Park & LEC
Computer Upgrades
- Monday, March 21 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

Council members provided updates on current events and meetings.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Thompson, seconded by Johnson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle R. Miller
Deputy City Clerk