

# CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

## BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

### Regular Meeting – October 1, 2007

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, October 1, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, Mayor Lehmann presiding.

Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Lehmann, Markeson, Hellquist, Johnson, Downs, Meuers. Absent: Erickson.

#### **AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA**

Lehmann called for any amendments to the agenda. Motion by Meuers, second by Hellquist, to approve the agenda as prepared. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

#### **MINUTES**

Minutes of the September 17 regular meeting and September 24, 2007 work session were presented for approval. Motion by Johnson, second by Downs, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval. Motion by Downs, second by Markeson, to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:

1. Approved Claims submitted by the Finance Officer in the total amount of \$412,702.99.
2. Approved Gambling Permit for Marine Corps League Detachment 585 (Pull Tabs).
3. **RESOLUTION NO. 5432** Adopting Assessment Roll for Delinquent Utility Accounts Reflecting Costs for Services Provided During the Year 2007.
4. **RESOLUTION NO. 5433** Declaring Costs to be Assessed and, Ordering Preparation of Proposed Assessment Rolls for City Project #06-04 (Fenske Avenue Water & Sewer).
5. Approved Budget Change #15.
6. Approved Downtown Building Rehabilitation Projects (#417-102, #417-502, #417-101 and #417-501).

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission - Sean Campbell, BYA Commission, reported that the Commission will be having a listening lunch on October 4 regarding Pay It Forward Tour with BSU. He stated that the Commission continues to discuss the skateboard plaza and are discussing new t-shirts for the Commission to wear during events.

Lehmann commented that he recently visited with Sgt. Martel from the National Guard regarding an in-door skateboard park for the winter months and he recommended that the Commission contact the National Guard.

Markeson stated that Matt at the Evergreen House is interested in working with the Youth Commission regarding the skateboard plaza and others in the community have expressed interest in supporting the plaza. Markeson commented that the Commission is interested in getting involved with other community committees and commissions.

Bemidji State University Student Senate - Cody Nelson, BSU Student Senate President, reported that the students recently met with Bill Maki and discussed the events center. Students discussed concerns regarding student tuition and student fees. The campus is restructuring and there will be some changes on campus. He stated that the Senate is discussing a number of items including a campus green fee. Mr. Nelson expressed concerns regarding the treatment of a female student at BSU. Mayor Lehmann recommended that the student should contact the chief of police or police captain in this regard.

## **PRESENTATION**

### **Kitchigami Regional Library - Budget**

Marian Ridge, Kitchigami Regional Library Director, reviewed the proposed 2008 levy and budget for the Kitchigami Regional Library's services to the Bemidji Public Library. The proposed levy for 2008 is \$101,284 – a 3% increase to the 2007 levy. Bemidji's Automation Repair and Replacement commitment is an additional \$7,715.

Mayor Lehmann asked about the total library budget which exceeds \$152,949. Ms. Ridge responded that the City must meet the state-mandated Maintenance of Effort requirements. Eischens stated that the City meets the requirements.

Councilor Markeson asked if Ms. Ridge has information regarding the city's portion of state funding. Ms. Ridge stated that there is no state funding for library services but there is state funding for infrastructure. Ms. Ridge stated that it is complex and difficult to cost out specific benefits to specific areas. She will take Councilor Markeson's request back to the Board.

## **LIBRARIAN REPORT**

Paul Ericsson, Branch Manager, reviewed Services for Children at the Bemidji Public Library. The Library gets delivery of materials four of the six days it is open. If they are not available in our local region, they can be obtained at other Minnesota libraries through MnLINK. The Library's collection of materials is wide ranged. The catalog is available on-line and user-friendly. In addition, there are weekly story times for most of the school year on Tuesday and Wednesday morning at 10:30 a.m. The Library works with those that work with children, i.e., Beltrami Area Service Collaborative – Youth Activity Action Team, Kits for Kids (KRLS).

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Pursuant to published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input regarding miscellaneous assessments for work done during 2007. Mayor Lehmann opened the Public Hearing at 7:40 p.m., hearing no comments the public hearing was closed.

**RESOLUTION NO. 5434:** Adopting the Roll for Unpaid Assessments for Miscellaneous Work Done by the City on Private Property in 2007 was offered by Councilmember Downs, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Meuers was passed by unanimous vote.

Pursuant to published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input regarding costs associated with fire service charges in 2007. Mayor Lehmann opened the Public Hearing at 7:41 p.m., hearing no comments the public hearing was closed.

**RESOLUTION NO. 5435:** Adopting Assessment Roll for Costs Associated with Fire Service Charges in 2007 was offered by Councilmember Markeson, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Johnson was passed by unanimous vote.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Bemidji Avenue TH197) Utility Reconstruction Project**

Craig Gray, City Engineer, stated that the MnDOT regional office has submitted the project. We are proceeding as if it will occur; however, due to the Hwy 35W disaster, funding may be delayed. Gray stated that staff is trying to come up with ways to fast track this project which may move the start date up to April or first of May of 2008.

Councilor Johnson asked if the Carnegie Building could be moved back as part of this project. Gray responded that if the City wants the building moved back, there will be no participation by MnDOT. There is also no advantage in moving the building back during this project.

**RESOLUTION NO. 5436:** Approving Feasibility Report and Setting Public Hearing (Bemidji Avenue TH197 Utility Reconstruction Project #08-02) was offered by Councilmember Markeson, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Johnson was passed by unanimous vote.

Greater Bemidji Area Joint Planning Board Funding

Mayor Lehmann stated that at the recent Joint Planning Board meeting the Board discussed each jurisdiction contributing “seed money” for start up funding.

City Attorney Felix reviewed the request from the JPB for “seed money” and stated that he felt it was premature to do so until the Council has amended the Joint Powers Agreement with respect to finances, the budget, etc. When this endeavor started several years ago, the understanding was that there were several questions unanswered. He suggested that the City Council not approve the allocation of \$2,000 until such time as a comprehensive amendment has been made to the agreement that answers budget and finance questions. He suggested a work committee sit down with township and city staff to prepare a proposal to amend the Joint Powers Agreement. City Council concurred with the City Attorney’s advice.

Bemidji Sustainability Task Force

Mayor Lehmann stated that it is proposed that the City create a Bemidji Sustainability Task Force.

Councilor Markeson reported that the goal of the task force would be to formulate recommendations for the preservation and protection of the area’s ecosystems and natural resources so that our use of natural resources is in balance with nature’s ability to replenish them. The task force could be comprised of 12 individuals: 2 City Council members, 2 representatives from the faculty or staff of BSU, 2 representatives from City of Bemidji staff, 2 BSU students, 1 representative from Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission and 3 Bemidji residents.

Markeson suggested that one possible project the task force would examine is replacing the heating and cooling system at City Hall with a more energy-efficient system. He stated that the cost savings could cover the cost.

Downs suggested that the task force be expanded to include BSU, Beltrami County and the School District, as it is bigger than just the city, and suggested that it be the Bemidji “Area Collaborative”. Markeson expressed concerns that it would slow the down process and wanted to keep it dedicated to the city. Meuers suggested that the task force start small and see where it grows.

Mayor Lehmann supported the plan but wanted to see a detailed budget plan and specifics on how savings would be measured before spending money.

**Motion by Councilor Meuers, second by Councilor Johnson, to create a Bemidji Sustainability Task Force as outlined but not commit any funds at this time. Motion carried unanimously.**

ORDINANCES

Pursuant to published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input regarding Amending an Uncoded Section of the Bemidji City Code (Authorizing the Sale of Real Property – Trustar). Mayor Lehmann opened the Public Hearing at 8:16 p.m., hearing no comments the public hearing was closed.

**AN ORDINANCE** Amending an Uncoded Section of the Bemidji City Code (Authorizing the Sale of Real Property – Trustar) was given a second reading.

Pursuant to published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input regarding Amending an Uncoded Section of the Bemidji City Code (Authorizing the Exchange/Sale of Real Property – DeMarchi’s). Mayor Lehmann opened the Public Hearing at 8:17 p.m., hearing no comments the public hearing was closed.

**AN ORDINANCE** Amending an Uncoded Section of the Bemidji City Code (Authorizing the Exchange/Sale of Real Property – DeMarchi’s) was given a second reading.

EVENTS CENTER

Mayor Lehmann reported that the Senate Capital Investment Committee visited the City last week and were given a presentation on the proposed event center. He stated that the visit went well.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- Wednesday, October 3 6:00 p.m. Special Work Session with BSU
- Monday, October 8 5:30 p.m. Work Session – WAC/SAC Fees
- Wednesday, Oct. 10 5:15 p.m. Work Session Joint Planning Board
- 6:00 p.m. GBAJPB Meeting @ Bemidji Town Hall
- Monday, Oct. 15 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting

**COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT**

- Chattin reported that he attended the JPB where they discussed office location and staffing. He stated that there is a lot going on with the JPB which is critical to our area. He met with staff regarding potential organizational changes to the Public Works and Engineering Departments and will bring it before the Council for their consideration when complete. He recently met with the firefighters regarding their contract.
- Mayor Lehmann reported that a new radio station began today; FM 92.1 WMIS. Oktoberfest will be on October 5 and 6.
- Johnson reported that the Airport Commission met recently and on October 11 Bemidji Aviation will be flying the Airport Commission to other FBO’s. Johnson informed the Council about Duluth’s moratorium on rentals in areas near their university and would like to see something like this in Bemidji.
- Meuers received a complaint by an individual walking through the “deer hunt” area regarding a hunter with an attitude. Felix suggested that hunters be reminder in the future regarding sharing the use of the parks – education.
- Markeson recently met with the waterfront parks adhoc committee which is developing ideas for the waterfront. This committee will be attending an upcoming Parks & Recreation Commission meeting. He reported that Mike Smith was recently installed as the new President of the Chamber of Commerce.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, motion by Downs, second by Hellquist, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay M. Murphy  
City Clerk