

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – June 16, 2008

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, June 16, 2008 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, Johnson, Erickson, Downs, Markeson, Hellquist. Absent: Meuers.

Staff Present: City Manager John Chatten, City Attorney Alan Felix, City Engineer Craig Gray, Finance Director Ron Eischens, City Clerk Kay Murphy

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Lehmann called for any amendments to the agenda. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Markeson, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

MINUTES

Minutes of the June 2 regular meeting and May 28, 2008 work session were presented for approval. Councilor Erickson asked that the paragraph regarding her comments in the May 28 minutes be removed. Motion by Downs, seconded by Markeson, to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Approved Claims submitted by the Finance Officer in the total amount of \$1,455,855.60.
2. Approved miscellaneous business licenses.
3. Approved 1 day temporary consumption & display permit - Chamber on 8/12/08
4. Approved 1-4 day temporary on-sale liquor license – BSU Foundation on 7/25/08
5. **RESOLUTION NO. 5491:** Adopting the Beltrami County All Hazard Mitigation Plan
6. Approved Budget Change Request #2
7. Approved Execution of Stormwater Related Easement with Bemidji Chrysler

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – Kali Sandmeyer, BYA Commission member, reported that the BYA June 7 event was attended by approximately 700 students and went well. On behalf of the members of BYC, Kali thanked the Council for their support.

NEW BUSINESS

Sales Tax Funding for Skate & Bike Park Development

Parks & Recreation Director Marcia Larson stated that the Parks and Trails Commission has been approached by an active group of skateboarding enthusiasts requesting a partnership with the City to develop a skate board and bike park. The Parks and Trails Commission recommended allocating \$150,000 of sales tax funding to the development of a skatepark, pending additional fundraising by the proponents of the skatepark including the Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission, Bemidji Skate and Bike Association and Healthy Community Healthy Kids.

Council discussed the following:

- Staffing requirements – Larson noted that the design for the skatepark is no higher than 4 feet which is recommended by the LMC Insurance Trust. This is called a Tier I park which does not require staffing or fencing.
- Skate park location, i.e., visibility, bathrooms, hours of operation? Larson is looking at several locations for the skatepark which will work for the city residents and skaters. The property that she is looking at is City-owned.

- Local fundraising efforts are already underway and a grant has been submitted to the Neilson Foundation.
- Potential cost of the skatepark is approximately \$400,000.

Motion by Markeson, seconded by Downs, approving allocation of \$150,000 with the contingency that if the skatepark is not built or if the contract is not awarded within three years, the funds will revert to the City’s park budget. Motion carried unanimously.

Funding for Parks & Recreation Department

Parks & Recreation Director Marcia Larson stated that the Parks & Recreation Department’s current annual budget does not allow for enough staff or operating and capital funding to adequately maintain existing facilities. The Parks Department maintenance responsibilities have increased, but the budget has not increased proportionately. At their June 10 meeting, the Parks & Trails Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval of a budget increase to the City Council. She noted that funding for this appropriation will come from General Fund reserves or 2008 potential budget savings.

The budget request for 2008 included:

- 1 full-time staff – Parks II position \$21,900
- Training/Travel \$800
- Dues and Subscriptions \$1,500
- Structures/building maintenance \$12,000
- Capital Expenditures (Playground equipment/Software) \$30,000

Larson stated that the playground equipment in several of the parks needs to be removed and replaced. The highest priority is Cameron Park as it is old, outdated and a liability concern.

She also requested scheduling software in the amount of \$5,000. This software will be more efficient and allow the scheduling of the parks and the arena with one software package.

Hellquist stated he would be abstaining from the vote as he provides seasonal help for the parks department.

Motion by Markeson, seconded by Downs, to approve the additional funding in 2008 for the Parks and Recreation Department in the amount of \$66,200. Motion carried with the following vote: Lehmann, Johnson, Erickson, Downs, Markeson. Abstain: Hellquist.

Chat-A-Bout Topic

Council asked that Larry Young and/or Cliff Tweedale be asked to discuss the economic impact of the BREC (July 7).

ORDINANCES

An Ordinance Amending an Uncoded Section of Bemidji City Code Pertaining to Alley Vacation was given a first reading.

An Ordinance Amending the City of Bemidji Council-Manager Charter Adding Section 12.16 Pertaining to Administrative Penalties was given a first reading.

EVENT CENTER UPDATE

Chattin reviewed the project status provided by Leo A Daly. He noted that the June 23 work session will be on construction management.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Monday, June 23 5:30 p.m. Work Session – Event Center
- Monday, July 7 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting
- Thursday, July 10 5:00 p.m. Council Retreat/Visioning Session @ Beltrami Electric
- Monday, July 14 5:30 p.m. Work Session – Audit Presentation

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

- Mayor Lehmann announced that he will be seeking re-election as Mayor of Bemidji.

- Johnson provided an overview of the LMC Conference which was held in Rochester. He attended a session at the Conference regarding construction managers and felt that the City should consider hiring a construction manager for the BREC. He stated that he won \$1,000 for the City at the Conference. He noted that Mayor Lehmann and Cliff Tweedale gave a presentation at the Conference regarding Bemidji Leads which was well received.
- Markeson received a call from Jean Humeniuk regarding the plantings at Diamond Point Park. The plantings were over mulched and she was taking care of the plants.
- Chattin also attended the LMC Conference and Best Value Contracting which is a process whereby you look at the total value of the bid. He is working with CSL and developing questions to ask potential hotel partners to get a better idea what the RFP will be. He noted that there was effectively no LGA increase by the legislature.
- Gray reported that the City received approval from Federal Aid to advertise our East West trail. Also, received Friday from the EDA for the Industrial Park Expansion project.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Downs, seconded by Johnson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay M. Murphy
City Clerk