

# CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

## BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

### Regular Meeting – June 18, 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, June 18, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, Mayor Pro tem Downs presiding.

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

#### **AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA**

Downs called for any amendments to the agenda. The following additions were requested:

- Downtown Design Review Committee
- Resolution in Support of a 2007 Special Legislative Session to Consider the Omnibus Tax Bill
- Design Team Direction

Motion by Hellquist, second by Erickson, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

#### **MINUTES**

Minutes of the June 4 regular meeting, May 4 special meeting and June 11, 2007 work session were presented for approval. Motion by Erickson, second by Meuers, to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

1. Approved Claims submitted by the Finance Officer in the total amount of \$913,686.90.
2. Approved miscellaneous business licenses for 2007.
3. Approved wine and on sale beer license for Hungry Bear Buffet (Johannesons, Inc.)
4. Approved Gambling Application: North Country Health Services – Raffle on 8/9/07.
5. Approved Liquor License transfer for Green Mill (Rich Siegert).
6. Authorized Property Exchange and Reimbursement (Norton Avenue – Birchmont Drive).
7. Approved Downtown Design Review Committee (Small Cities Development Program Funding).
8. **RESOLUTION NO. 5416:** Supporting a 2007 Special Legislative Session to Consider the Omnibus Tax Bill.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – Charlie Christiansen, BYAC, reported on the June 7 Youth event which started at 9 a.m. and went well until it rained. He stated that approximately 350-400 students were in attendance. He thanked City of Bemidji staff, Police Department, the City Council, Bemidji Pioneer, Citizen's Patrol, t-shirt sponsors – Search Resources, Frostbite Falls, Pioneer, etc. Discussion continued regarding an indoor back up location for the event in case of rain. Currently, the Commission is accepting applications for next school year's commission. He stated that the Youth Advisory Commission is considering entering a dragon boat team for this year's event.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING**

Eischens reviewed the request to issue general obligation bonds to finance a portion of the Public Works Facility. The intent would be to issue bonds later in 2007 based on cash flow needs. He stated that currently under state statute Bemidji can have a G.O. Debt of \$12.5 million. Currently the City has \$900,000 of debt that qualifies under that criteria.

Pursuant to published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input regarding the Five Year Capital Improvement Plan – Issue General Obligation Bonds to Finance a Portion of the Public Works Facility. Downs opened the Public Hearing at 7:18 p.m., hearing no comments the public hearing was closed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### 2007 Budget Changes

Chattin stated that the budget changes are the result of a policy change approved by the City Council. The recommendations have been approved by the City Manager and reviewed by the City Council previously. Eischens stated that in the future there will not be as many budget adjustments but will come to the Council for approval throughout the year.

**Motion by Meuers, second by Erickson, to approve the 2007 budget changes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

### Paul Bunyan Trail

**Motion by Hellquist, second by Meuers, supporting a State Bonding Request to Tar the Paul Bunyan Trail between Guthrie and Walker. Motion was unanimously approved.**

Downs stated that the trail completion will be equally endorsed by Walker and Bemidji. Chattin will follow up with Tony Walzer of the DNR in this regard.

### Chat-A-Bout Topic for July

Council suggested that Police Chief Johnson give an update regarding the noise ordinance enforcement. In addition, Fire Chief Sathers could join Johnson and discuss fireworks safety. Council would like to see a written report on the noise ordinance enforcement.

## **EVENT CENTER UPDATE**

### Design Team Direction

Chattin stated that at the last Council meeting there were two unanswered questions and recommended the Council give direction to Leo A Daly as to how they proceed from this point. If there is a serious intention to build a convention center and/or a second sheet of ice in the future, the Council may want to consider having the schematic design include the potential for an addition. He stated that if it would be a long time until the additions are built, or if there was no intention of building them, then it may be beneficial to wait and use the money for something else.

Paul Richards, Widseth Smith Nolting, asked the Council for direction on the following two questions: 1) Does the design team design for the possibility of adding the convention center in the future? 2) Does the design team design for the possibility of adding the second sheet of ice in the future? He stated that the Council may want to consider are the layout of the facility, utilities, road access, etc. There may be some economies that could be realized if planned now. This is a large facility and will take quite a bit of time to complete in order to prepare for legislative action in 2008.

Downs asked how much it costs for a schematic design for a future expansion.

Richards stated that without finishing the plans he could not estimate how much it would cost. He explained that there are three stages: schematic, design development and construction documents. The current contract includes the development of all three stages and he recommended that the Council make a decision so the design team knows how to continue.

Downs stated that the next step is the mediation with the HRDC to review the costs associated with BSU and the City.

Meuers stated that she needed a commitment from BSU before moving any further.

Chattin stated that Cliff Tweedale will be presenting a proposal as to their role in this process. It was unclear what the City Council wanted from the HRDC. Does Leo A Daly get their direction from the HRDC? Erickson stated that that was way beyond her intention. Consensus of the Council was that HRDC would be facilitating the process with BSU. Chattin will come back to the Council with HRDC's proposal.

Discussion continued on the CSL study on the financial viability of the event center and the cost of operation and maintenance.

Markeson asked if there would be a savings if the additions were not included.

Richards replied it would be a redirection of funds within the current contract with Leo A Daly. If the Council delayed or determined that they were not going to design fully the convention center or the second sheet of ice, then there could be a negotiation to move money to detail design of the event center within the current contract. He recommended that a schematic design phase with all three facilities be completed so it could be determined how they fit together. He stated that the convention center is the economic driver for the downtown. If they were competing for the same area, the Council may want the second sheet of ice at some point in time for BSU to practice on to free up the event center for an event.

Erickson asked what the advantage of moving the event center may be.

Richards stated that it makes a difference as to where the event center is located as it makes a difference on what property would be purchased and how access would be obtained for services. Discussion continued on locating the event center and the cost associated.

Erickson asked if there was a reason for the rush to continue the planning.

Richards stated yes, that with the size of the event center it is important to have good figures when the City goes for its bonding. He stated that the timeline is compressed. He commented that the master planning for the area will include future facilities, i.e., hotel or science center.

Erickson stated that the City has committed \$50 million on the project and she does not imagine the city committing to a convention center or a second sheet of ice in the future. She stated that long term planning for her is 10 to 20 years.

Richards stated that this is a vision for the future. This is not stating that the Council will support funding.

Downs commented that the Council should not build something that will be obsolete immediately.

Council asked that Richards prepare an estimate for the cost of developing schematics for the two additions to be discussed at the Council's July 2 meeting.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- July 2 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting
- July 9 5:30 p.m. Work Session – Audit Presentation/City Manager Review
- July 11 6:00 p.m. GBJPB – Meet at Northern Town Hall
- July 16 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting

### **COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT**

- Felix reported that the Joint Planning Board approved the Menards Plat and it is moving forward.
- Chattin reported that construction of buildings has started in Diamond Point Park. He stated that the cost of the human jaw bone that was found at Diamond Point Park was approximately \$40,000. Other artifacts were found that were not human. Chattin stated that Police Sergeants arbitration has been completed and the City should know something from the arbitrator soon. The City will be receiving a City of Excellence Award at the League meeting in Duluth for their Joint Planning efforts.
- Eischens stated that the Friends of the Library, Library Board and the Kitchigami representatives will meet this week with himself and Chattin to discuss the Friends' proposal.
- Hellquist reported that the DDA membership is at 89 and they will be expanding their associate base outside the downtown area. The DDA is discussing road traffic re-routes downtown when Mn/DOT closes Bemidji Avenue next year. The DDA has concerns about the Methodone clinic located downtown and issues regarding the element that it may bring into town. Chattin stated that he has asked Chief Johnson to facilitate a

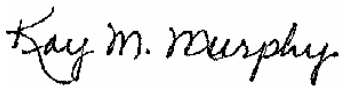
meeting with the Sheriff, himself and the clinic director. The DDA had concerns regarding the directional boring in downtown Bemidji and noted the contractors who have been doing the work are not hospitable. Council would like a policy regarding overnight use in parking lots for occupied vehicles.

- Erickson stated that the Deer Committee will meet on June 27 to review the survey which was completed by the hunters and they will be planning next fall's hunt. She stated that she received a phone call regarding safety on the bridge and recommended that the City should add another board to the fishing pier. Staff should take a look at the dock.
- Meuers stated that there will not be a Public Affairs Committee meeting in June; however they will meet in July.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, motion by Hellquist, second by Meuers, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay M. Murphy  
City Clerk