

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – February 4, 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, February 4, 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, Meuers, Markeson, Hellquist.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

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

- Resolution Accepting Donation (D.A.R.E. Program)
- Resolution Supporting Healthy Community Healthy Kids Application for Funds to Support Suicide Prevention Activities in the Bemidji Community
- Add Mayor Lehmann to Travel Authorization for Bemidji Day at the Capitol
- Resolution Authorizing Joint Powers Agreement with Northern Township For Birchmont Drive Utility Extension Project Construction and Special Assessment of Eligible Costs to Benefitted Properties
- Facility Design Directive regarding Events Center

Motion by Johnson, second by Markeson, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

MINUTES

Minutes of the January 22 regular meeting and January 28, 2008 work session were presented for approval. Motion by Downs, second by Meuers, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Approved Claims submitted by the Finance Officer in the total amount of \$13,806,003.43
2. Approved miscellaneous business license renewals for 2008
3. **RESOLUTION NO. 5465:** Approving an Application for a Gambling Permit for Bemidji Youth Association at Hardtimes Saloon
4. **RESOLUTION NO. 5466:** Approving an Application for a Gambling Permit for Community Charities of Minnesota at Bemidji Bowling Alley
5. Authorized Sponsorship of the Capitol Day Reception (\$250 – Bemidji Chamber)
6. Approved Parking Enforcement Agreement with Beltrami County for County parking lot by the Administration Building
7. Approved appointment of Anne Sand to the Library Board (non-resident opening)
8. **RESOLUTION NO. 5467:** Declaring the Official Intent of the City to Reimburse Certain Expenditures from the Proceeds of Bonds to be Issued by the City (Sale of Bonds)
9. Authorized Agreement with WSN to perform Limited Site Investigation (\$8,004)
10. Approved A Workplace Awareness Accident and Injury Reduction (A.W.A.I.R.) Program
11. **RESOLUTION NO. 5468:** Accepting Donation (D.A.R.E. Program)
12. **RESOLUTION NO. 5469:** Supporting Healthy Community Healthy Kids Application for Funds to Support Suicide Prevention Activities in the Bemidji Community
13. Approved the following travel authorizations:
 - St. Paul for Legislative Bond – 2/8/08 – Downs
 - St. Paul for CGMC Action Day – 2/20/08 – Johnson
 - St. Paul for Bemidji Day at the Capitol – 3/25/08 – Johnson, Markeson, Lehmann

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – Shawn Campbell, BYA Representative, reported that the Commission's Youth Connections Board have been visiting with both Mn/DOT and Bemidji Green Up regarding having a youth representative on their respective Boards. BYAC is sponsoring a dance at the Boys & Girls Club on Friday, February 8.

Bemidji State University Student Senate – Cody Nelson, President, reported that the Senate approved a tuition increase of 4% to the Administration for the upcoming fiscal year. The Senate will be reviewing and re-evaluating the conduct code system which has not been examined in years. There will be a formal presentation on the green fee and how it will affect the students at BSU. Among other things, the Senate continues to work on a five-year strategic plan.

NEW BUSINESS

Community Development Director

City Manager John Chattin reviewed a request to approve the job description for a Community Development Director. He stated that with the closing of the City's planning department, and the prospect of several major projects in the City's future, staff recommends the Council approve the hiring of a Community Development Director. Along with other duties, this position will apply for and keep track of grants. Chattin stated that the funding for this position is in place.

Erickson asked about the essential duties and responsibilities of the position and if the position would manage the City's revolving loan fund. Chattin responded that the position would oversee the revolving loan fund currently managed by the JEDC.

Erickson noted that the current job description is similar to the existing city planner position with some duties being expanded.

Chattin replied that the new position does not have the same amount of task oriented duties and does not necessarily do planning exercises. He further stated that the position is more about working on larger projects. Chattin noted that the position will be under the Administration Department budget, not a separate department at this time.

Johnson commented that this is a very important position and the creation of the Joint Planning Board has allowed us to budget for this position. He expressed concerns about which of the city staff will be handling rental housing complaints and would like to see more aggressive inspections of rentals in the City.

Motion by Meuers, second by Johnson, to approve the job description and authorize the advertising for the position of Community Development Director. Motion carried unanimously.

Birchmont Drive Assessment & Utility Agreements

City Attorney Alan Felix reviewed the Joint Powers Agreement for Assessment of Birchmont Drive Utility Extension project costs and associated Utility Services Agreement with Northern Township. He noted that a condition or consideration of entering into the Revised Utility Service Agreement is the Township's transfer of its ownership interests in the Water Distribution System constructed by MPCA (including the interest in Bemidji's Municipal Well #3). In return, the City will take over full responsibility, financially and otherwise, for operation, repair and maintenance of that system. The new Birchmont facility extensions will be owned by the City.

Erickson asked if there has been any on-going maintenance on Kummer's Landfill and related well. City Engineer Craig Gray responded that there have been minor repairs, nothing major and the city has taken care of those repairs.

RESOLUTION NO. 5470: Authorizing a Joint Powers Agreement with Northern Township For Birchmont Drive Utility Extension Project Construction and Special Assessment of Eligible Costs to Benefitted Properties was offered by Councilmember Hellquist, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Markeson was passed by unanimous vote.

Motion by Erickson, second by Hellquist, to approve the Birchmont Drive Utility Services Agreement with Northern Township. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE NO. 25, 3rd SERIES: An Ordinance Amending an Uncoded Section of the Bemidji City Code (Authorizing the Conveyance of Real Property – Heathman) was given a final reading and passed by unanimous vote.

EVENTS CENTER UPDATE

Chattin stated that after the January 10, 2008 special meeting on the events center, the Council gave direction to staff to move forward with a facility that did not include a second sheet of ice, BSU offices, or the BSU weight training room. He stated that he has discussed this with BSU representatives and received no indication that a second sheet of ice would be in their future plans. He would like action from the Council to direct Leo A Daly to proceed with designing the arena/convention/conference center without accommodation for the addition of a second sheet of ice.

Johnson asked if there would be room to add a second sheet in the future, i.e., a parking lot. Chattin responded that a parking lot could be designed with the idea of expansion.

Motion by Hellquist, second by Johnson, to direct Leo A Daly to proceed with designing the arena/convention/conference center without accommodation for the addition of a second sheet of ice. Motion carried unanimously.

Chattin reported that a group continues to meet regarding strategic planning for the bonding request. The Chamber will be spearheading a meeting this week regarding the need for someone to coordinate the lobbying effort on the bonding request. He stated that he continues to work with Leo A Daly on pre-design application documents. He noted that the documents need to be amended and updated as soon as possible.

Chattin stated that the Council has received a list of Committee member recommendations to assist with the day-to-day decisions that need to be made. Mayor Lehmann stated the Council will discuss and make recommendations regarding the committee recommendations.

LIBRARIAN REPORT

Paul Ericsson, Bemidji Public Librarian, provided a power point presentation regarding the internet resources available at the KRL/Bemidji Public Library website – krls.org.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Monday, February 11 5:30 p.m. Work Session – TH197 Access Mgmt Study
- Wednesday, Feb. 13 6:00 p.m. GBAJPB
- Tuesday, February 19 5-6:30 p.m. OPEN HOUSE for Committee/Commissions/
Volunteers
- Tuesday, February 19 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

- Lehmann commented that there will be a speed skating event on Lake Bemidji on February 22 and 23.
- Downs reported that a Consortium Meeting regarding healthy kids and healthy life styles met and discussed different ideas getting kids off the couch and outside. He attended the Parks and Trails Counsel of Minnesota meeting in Duluth. He noted that our trail project is on the top ten list for legislative consideration.
- Meuers reported that on Friday, February 15 the Boys & Girls Club will be holding a fundraiser.
- Johnson reported that on January 24 he attended a board meeting with the CGMC where they discussed LGA and possible new formulas. There have been more cities added to the CGMC which is good for Bemidji. He stated that he received a “disturbing” letter from a resident in his ward regarding a rental house. This particular residence has received four police calls in one month. Felix stated that it depends on the nature of the calls and without more information he cannot make a determination. Johnson expressed concerns about too many people in a rental and would like to see more frequent inspections by the building office. He recommended that the Council have a work session on this item. Council asked that staff look at the information/concerns regarding rentals and bring to a Council work session for further discussion. Johnson commented

about expanding our cable access with the High School and thought perhaps the City could partner with Lakeland Public Television. Mayor Lehmann recommended that the Public Affairs Committee meet in this regard.

- Erickson reported that per the direction of City Council an ice rink is available in front of the Tourist Information Center on Lake Bemidji and she encouraged residents to use it. She reported that Bemidji Green Up will be giving away 1,000 trees to City residents during Arbor Day Week. She suggested that department heads give a short presentation at council meetings similar to the Librarian's report. She asked for an update on the progress of CSL regarding operations and maintenance on the events center. Chattin responded that he will give Bill Krueger a call on Tuesday morning regarding the report.
- Markeson stated that the B-Well group is arranging for an Active Living Grant from Blue Cross. They are encouraging integrating physical activity into daily routines. He met with the committee regarding the Waterfront and concerns were expressed about double funding the market study. Chattin stated that he met with Jim Steenerson and the two projects have been combined into one grant application. Chattin further stated that there will be some modification to the contract with RDG for the market study but it should result in an overall net savings. Markeson stated that a local artist is working on a historically correct statute of the City's namesake. Markeson reported that he recently participated in a panel at BSU regarding global warming called "Focus the Nation" and discussed different groups throughout the world are doing.
- Chattin reported that he will be meeting with Northwest Technical College regarding the proposed fire substation. They are working with Red Cross as a potential partner at the substation.
- Craig Gray informed the Council that the bid opening for Birchmont Drive project will be this Thursday. He met recently with Beltrami County Engineer and the engineer for Pinnacle Outlet Mall to discuss road improvements required for the project. The developer's engineer has been given a green light to proceed with the project.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Downs, second by Hellquist, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay M. Murphy
City Clerk