

# CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

## BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

### Regular Meeting – December 18, 2006

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, December 18, 2006 at 7:50 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, Mayor Lehmann presiding.

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

#### **AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA**

Lehmann called for any amendments to the agenda. The following addition was requested:

- Added 16a – Consider Small Cities Development Program Participation (Carnegie Building)

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

#### **MINUTES**

Minutes of the December 4 regular meeting and Truth In Taxation meeting and December 12, 2006 special work session were presented for approval. Motion by Erickson, second by Markeson, 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 Markeson, to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:

1. Approved Claims submitted by the Finance Officer in the total amount of \$432,961.54.
2. Approved miscellaneous business licenses.
3. Approved Miscellaneous Business Licenses – 2007.
4. Final Reading & Approval of Beer License Renewals – 2007.
5. Approved Liquor, Wine and Club License Renewals – 2007.
6. Approve Gambling Permits:
  - St. Philip's School – Raffle on 2/10/07 @ Hampton Inn
  - BSU Foundation – Raffle on 2/20/07 @ Hampton Inn & Suites
  - Bemidji Curling Club – Raffle on 3/10/07 @ Curling Club
7. Approved purchase of a 2007 2-wheel drive extended cab pickup – Water Department.
8. Approved purchase of a pickup crane – Sewerline Department.
9. Approved purchase of a 2007 front-end loader – Street Department.
10. Approved purchase of a WWTP Templifier Heat Pump Rep. – WWTP.
11. Approved purchase of a Canon copier – Engineering Office (lower level City Hall).
12. Authorized Agreement with Trout Well for Redevelopment of Well #4 – Water Dept.
13. Authorized **RESOLUTION NO. 5382** Approving the Tentative Agreement between the City and Local 49er's (Public Works, Parks, Streets, Sanitation & Engineering employees) for 2007-2009.
14. Authorized **RESOLUTION NO. 5383** Approving the Tentative Agreement between the City and UFCW Local #116 (Liquor Store employees) for 2007-2009.
15. Approved **RESOLUTION NO. 5384** Designating Depositories for City Funds in 2007.
16. Approved Council Travel to CGMC Legislative Action Day (1/10/07) – Markeson, Downs
17. Approved Application to the Small Cities Development Program for Improvements to Carnegie Building.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – Michelle Frees, BYA representative, reported that Cody Nelson from BSU student council attended the BYA meeting to discuss the "Pay It

Forward” program. BYA will be having a winter event with Boys & Girls Club on February 2. The Listening Lunch in January will be to promote the Boys & Girls Club. BYA recently attended a School Board meeting regarding June 7 Youth Day and asked what the board could do so students can attend Youth Day events.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

#### Five-year Capital Improvement Plan (2007-2011)

Erickson would like to see an inventory of the city vehicles. Eischens will provide an inventory of the City’s vehicles with the Friday newsletter. Chattin commented that the vehicle replacement policy will be reviewed in the future to set some standards.

Mayor Lehmann opened the public hearing at 8:03 p.m., hearing no public comment he closed the public hearing.

**RESOLUTION NO. 5385:** Adopting 2007 Capital Improvement and Equipment Replacement Plan was offered by Councilmember Erickson, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Downs, was passed by unanimous vote.

### **PLANNING CASES**

Planning Case #2006-14 – Cindy Nelson, 3670 Sherman Drive NE, has requested to vacate a public road right-of-way adjacent to the west boundary of her property and abutting the Mississippi River. Planning Commission recommended approval with a 3 to 2 vote, 2 members were absent.

Downs commented that he has a problem giving up property because someone has built on the easement.

Felix stated that the City has no fee interest in the property.

Motion Erickson, second by Hellquist, to approve the street vacation (PC #2006-14). Motion carried unanimously.

Planning Case 2006-18 - The Planning Commission recommended that the parking section of the Zoning Ordinance be amended to require that all newly created rental units in the City provide at least one off-street parking space for each occupant, including 16 year olds and older, up to a maximum of four required off-street parking spaces. Planning Commission recommended approval with the condition that the Rental Housing Registration Code be reviewed and, if need be, amended to clarify the interpretation of the applicability of the Rental Housing Registration Code to all rental units.

Motion by Downs, second by Hellquist, to approve the amendment to the Zoning Ordinance requiring all newly created rental units in the City provide at least one off-street parking space for each occupant, including 16 years olds and older, up to a maximum of four off-street parking spaces. Motion passed with the following vote: Ayes: Markeson, Lehmann, Downs, Hellquist. Nays: Erickson. Absent: Meuers, Johnson.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 5386:** Adopting Final 2006 Tax Levy Collectible in 2007 was offered by Councilmember Downs, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Erickson was passed by unanimous vote.

#### Final 2007 Budget

Erickson asked Eischens to explain why there is large increase to the 2007 Budget.

Eischens reviewed the budget stating that the significant increase in the budget can be attributed to a \$5,340,000 GO Debt for the public works facility, \$9,690,000 for the cost of construction of the public work facility, \$8,025,000 for water/sewer construction projects, \$1.8 million increase for street construction projects from 2006 to 2007, \$2 million increase in expenditures relating to park improvements that are entirely funded by the sales tax. He stated with those five items the budget goes from approximately \$28 million to \$55 million. The City will be spending a significant amount of its cash reserves next year through much of these projects. The City has the cash available; it is just a matter of making sure it is available when the money is needed – primarily next summer during construction season.

**RESOLUTION NO. 5387:** Adopting Final 2007 Budget was offered by Councilmember Hellquist, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Markeson, was passed by unanimous vote.

Chat-A-Bout Topic – January 8, 2007

Mayor Lehmann will discuss the City Council’s priorities and what has been accomplished in 2006.

**ORDINANCES**

Pursuant to published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input regarding a proposed Ordinance Ratifying the Greater Bemidji Area Joint Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment and Appeals, and Providing for Suspension of the City’s Current Advisory Planning Commission. Mayor Lehmann opened the Public Hearing at 8:21 p.m., hearing no comments the public hearing was closed.

Motion by Hellquist, second by Downs, accepting the changes to the Ordinance Ratifying the Greater Bemidji Area Joint Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment and Appeals, and Providing for Suspension of the City’s Current Advisory Planning Commission. Motion passed unanimously.

**AN ORDINANCE** Ratifying the Greater Bemidji Area Joint Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment and Appeals, and Providing for Suspension of the City’s Current Advisory Planning Commission was given a second reading.

**AN ORDINANCE** Amending an Uncoded Section of Bemidji City Code Pertaining to Street Vacation (Planning Case #2006-14) was given a first reading.

**AN ORDINANCE** Amending Chapter 28, Article VII of the Bemidji City Code relating to off street parking requirements and providing for increased number of spaces for rental dwellings (Planning Case #2006-18) was given a first reading.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- Tuesday, January 2                      7:00 p.m.              City Council Meeting
- Monday, January 8                      5:30 p.m.              Work Session – Friends of the Library
- Tuesday, January 16                      7:00 p.m.              City Council Meeting

**COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT**

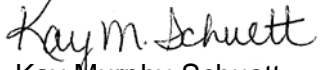
- Chattin reported that he is working with the County on the shared tech support hoping for Memorandum of Understanding and starting the agreement after the first of the year. He stated that one benefit would be standardization of computer equipment. Chattin stated that the City has received the Final Feasibility Analysis of the Event Center from CSL and it is available on-line. Chattin stated that Bemidji Day at the Capitol is on February 20 which is a Council meeting date and perhaps the Council would like to set another date for their meeting. Committee appointments will be considered in January and Chattin recommended that three Councilmembers be assigned to the Parks & Recreation Commission.
- Markeson recently attended a joint meeting with Bemidji Area Race Relations and Bemidji Leads and they discussed ways to improve relations.
- Hellquist reported that DDA is working on a number of items which include marketing downtown shopping, parking revenues, looking at signage in the near future on south end of town, developing new by-laws and purpose statements, and discussed Small Cities Development Program and what is available for commercial versus rental property. In addition, the DDA has expressed an interest in working closer with the Council.
- Erickson attended a Teen Suicide Convention Committee which meets monthly which is working in the school system and educating students on recognizing someone that is considering suicide. Erickson reported that 27 deer were taken in Ward 5 bow hunt. Erickson stated that she is still getting complaints regarding sanding on Elliott Road. She stated the City has sanded the street but it is Northern Township’s turn to maintain this road.
- Downs suggested that the Council take the opportunity to explore a Federal Transportation Bill. He discussed a bridge over 197 and would like a proposed rest stop included in the plan. Downs would like to be assigned to the Parks & Recreation Commission.

- Felix asked the Council to review the parking ordinance and discuss it further with him individually prior to the next meeting.
- Oakes commented that staff has been working with Menards regarding their site (former Spaulding) and there will be a Planned Unit Development coming in the near future.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, motion by Downs, second by Hellquist, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay Murphy-Schuett  
City Clerk