

City of Bemidji

City Council Work Session

November 10, 2003 – 5:30 p.m.

Present: Lehmann, Downs, Hellquist, Johnson, Zachman, Meuers
Absent: Johnson
Staff & Others: Minke, Sherman

Mayor Lehmann called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM and noted that the topic originally scheduled for discussion – government access station – has been rescheduled to November 24th due to the death of Councilmember Johnson's father. The topic presented for discussion at this meeting related to budget/taxes.

Letting residents know what the impact of some of the legislative actions are going to have on our budget – costs they are incurring as a result of their property taxes or the services provided by the city.

Copy of Letter by Bill _____ - fails to point out that the Transit levy and Market Value credit are the two items that remained intact to a point where they were very beneficial to the more affluent metro-suburbs - we get very little. Accused the Coalition of being a mouthpiece for the Democratic Party – harsh and inaccurate.

Citizen Observer Alert Network – informational piece – can get an e-mail notification if there are burglaries in your neighborhood – car theft – vandalism or for businesses – bad checks, counterfeit money, etc. e-mail alerts in a timely manner – help keep people in the loop on the crime – want to make Council aware – sign up to receive it.

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and tax abatement – how it works – two that we have used here - pay as you go and bonding for eligible costs.

TIF can be good – depending on how it is structured – an economic development tool – helps cities respond to housing needs – also tax abatement similar type of program.

One thing to remember about TIF - the project cannot move forward “but for” the use of tax increment financing.

Information that summarized TIF - can be good – depends on how it is used – city must decide what its role is in economic development – trying to offer incentives – trying to lure businesses - summary sheet of the city's TIF districts – Fairgrounds is actually a Tax Abatement District – two districts used with frequency are redevelopment and housing – other districts rarely used.

There being no further business presented for discussion the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Sherman, City Clerk