

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – September 5, 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 Tuesday, September 5, 2006 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, Markeson, Hellquist, Johnson, Erickson, Downs, Meuers.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

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

Remove – Presentation by Healthy Kids/Healthy Communities

Add – Appointment of Betty Hanson-Lehman to Library Board

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

MINUTES

Minutes of the August 21, 2006 regular meeting and August 21, August 22 and August 24, 2006 special work sessions were presented for approval. Motion by Hellquist, second 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 Meuers, second by Hellquist, to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:

1. Approved Claims submitted by the Finance Officer in the total amount of \$391,607.44.
2. Approved miscellaneous business licenses.
3. Approved Gambling Permit – North Country Home Care & Hospice (Raffle–4/21/07).
4. Approved **RESOLUTION NO. 5352** Authorizing an Agreement between the Department of Transportation and the City of Bemidji for Federal Participation in Preliminary Engineering (Save “Babe”).
5. Approved Sanitary Sewer Repair with Veit & Company in the amount of \$30,878.90.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission

Charley Christiansen, President of BYA, reviewed the Commission’s goals for the year. The main goal is getting a youth center in the works. They are hoping to improve the listening lunches and find new locations for the lunches at the high school. Once again, the Commission will be hosting a June 7 Youth Day. Members of the Commission were present and introduced themselves.

OLD BUSINESS

Master Agreement with KRL

Felix stated that the City, County and Blackduck representatives met with Kitchigami on Monday, August 28 to wrap up discussions on the concerns lodged with KRL over the 2006 budget increases, which concerns gave rise to the City’s Notice of Intent to Rescind the Master Agreement between the parties. It is the recommendation of the City representatives that the City formally elect to withdraw its previous Notice to Rescind and retain membership in KRL. The basis of that recommendation is outlined in the resolution and attached letter which will be sent to Marian Ridge at KRL. Felix stated it is his observation that member jurisdictions desire the Beltrami County members to stay and work together to resolve differences and improve the regional library system.

Lehmann stated that Scotty Tesar who is a volunteer at the Library has prepared a handout which outlines the estimated value of volunteer time at the Bemidji Public Library. He noted

that volunteering is very important to our community and that the volunteers at the Library have done a terrific job.

Ms. Tesar stated that until February 2006 she was a volunteer at the Bemidji Public Library but was dismissed by KRL Head Librarian Marian Ridge and not allowed to route books because of data privacy. Ms. Tesar felt that the volunteer staff is qualified and dedicated to the library. She stated that the volunteers should not be counted out as they are worth something.

Johnson commented that Representative Frank Moe spoke about possible legislative changes governing regional libraries and library services generally. He would like to see the city continue to lobby and work toward a collaboration of sorts.

Felix responded that staff would work with Representative Moe and others; however, the City still needed to move forward with a decision to stay or withdraw from KRL. Felix also noted that the County and City believe that the volunteers at the Library are important and, the City and County representatives also want to pursue this particular issue with KRL.

RESOLUTION NO. 5353: Withdrawing Notice of Intent to Rescind Master Agreement with Kitchigami Regional Library was offered by Councilmember Downs, and upon due second by Councilmember Markeson was passed by unanimous vote.

Motion by Erickson, second by Hellquist, appointing Betty Hanson-Lehman to Library Board and as the City's representative on the Kitchigami Regional Library Board. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION NO. 5354: Adopting the 2007 Preliminary City Budget was offered by Councilmember Hellquist, and upon due second by Councilmember Markeson was passed by unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 5355: Adopting the 2007 Preliminary Tax Levy was offered by Councilmember Hellquist, and upon due second by Councilmember Markeson was passed by unanimous vote.

Establish TNT Hearing Date:

Motion by Downs, second by Erickson, establishing the Truth in Taxation Hearing Date on December 4, 2006 at 5:30 p.m. and continuation hearing, if needed, on December 11, 2006. All voted aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 5356: Authorizing Ballot Question (Referendum) for Extension of Half Cent Local Option Sales Tax was offered by Councilmember Hellquist, and upon due second by Councilmember Johnson was passed by unanimous vote.

Motion by Downs, second by Hellquist, to add the language "restated in stronger language" to Question 2 and leave Question 3 as prepared. Motion carried 5-2 vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 5357: Authorizing Ballot Question (Referendum) on Proposed Charter Amendments was offered by Councilmember Downs, and upon due second by Councilmember Johnson was passed by unanimous vote.

Bemidji Area Climate Change Coalition (BAC3)

Lehmann stated that he visited with Dr. Welle of the BAC3 regarding their request for a meeting with the City. The Coalition is looking for the City to do everything it can to create a "green" building for the event center. Lehmann commented that the Council has looked at many improvements to the community, i.e., stormwater, wastewater. Lehmann suggested that the Coalition be invited to an upcoming meeting to give a presentation.

CITIZEN NOT ON AGENDA

- Davey Mills, owner of Bar 209, stated that no smoking ordinance which went into effect in January 7, 2005 and in March 2005 he realized he had to remodel the bar and looked at adding a smoking area in the bar with a negative air flow system, however, he decided against it because he understood the smoking ban would not allow a smoking room in 2007. Lehmann responded that the County has the smoking ordinance. Felix stated he should contact Tony Murphy or Tim Faver in this regard and discuss any new enforcement rules that may be coming up.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- September 11 – 5:30 p.m. – Work Session – Growth Management
- September 14 – 5:30 p.m. – Primary Canvassing Board
- September 15 – 5:30 p.m. – Reception with Manager Candidates
- September 16 – All Day – Manager Candidates Interviews
- September 25 – 5:30 p.m. – Special Work Session - Refuse

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

- Johnson received a call from Flaherty & Hood regarding doing a candidate forum and suggested an informal meeting with the City Council and potential candidates. Johnson commented that City's questions would get lost at the forums. Use this opportunity to know how the candidates stand on the City-related issues. Suggested the last week in September. Johnson will follow-up with Flaherty & Hood.
- Meuers has received calls or comments regarding the Diamond Point project regarding the road. Callers want to be able to drive up to a picnic table. Also she has received calls regarding the location of the beach. Felix stated that the insurance trust recommends no beach on the south side.
- Felix read the following statement regarding the Diamond Point Park project.

Road Design and Placement:

1) The design of the road is the result of public comment regarding the use of the park. 2) Public input indicated the desire to maximize the amount of uninterrupted green space and minimize the land area used for roads. 3) The public desires to save significant trees. 4) The public desires to separate incompatible uses, e.g., vehicular traffic and non-motorized, family uses. 5) The public desires to avoid sensitive cultural areas. 6) The reason for not using the park from the survey, "too many roads". 7) Type of amenities people would not like to see from the survey includes parking inside the park.

Accessibility Issues:

1) All areas will be completely ADA accessible. 2) A paved ten foot wide trail will provide access to mobility restricted users. 3) A keyed gate will allow vehicular delivery and drop-off access to picnic shelters and the main park building.

Master Plan Adopted:

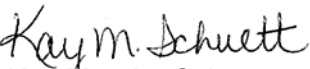
1) Changing the plan now will open up a number of issues: Cultural areas will need to be re-visited, park buildings will need to be relocated, philosophy of the park use will need to be redefined and changes at this stage of the planning process are very expensive.

- Freeberg noted that 1st Street South will be closed for the next 6 weeks for road construction as well as 4th Street in Nymore.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Meuers, second by Hellquist, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Kay Murphy-Schuett
City Clerk