

# **CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**

## **BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA**

### **Regular Meeting/Work Session – May 8, 2006**

Pursuant to due call and notice, a regular meeting/work session of the City Council of the City of Bemidji, Beltrami County, Minnesota, was held on Monday, May 8, 2006, at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of City Hall, Mayor Lehmann presiding.

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

Staff Present: Alan Felix, Teresa Vincent, Greg Negard, Kay Murphy-Schuetz

Mayor Lehmann stated that the purposes of the meeting included discussion of the hiring process for city manager, donation of an old fire department pumper truck, and purchase of replacement transit bus.

#### Pumper Truck

Lehmann stated that no bids were received when the 1968 Fire Department pumper truck was put up for bids (sale). Since no bids were received the Council should consider donating the truck to the Northwest Technical College. The Tech College will use the truck to assist in the development of their proposed Fire Science Course.

Motion by Hellquist, second by Johnson, to donate the 1968 pumper fire truck to NW Technical College for their use in development of their proposed Fire Science Course. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Paul Bunyan Transit - Bus

Lehmann stated that the Paul Bunyan Transit has requested replacement of a 1999 International bus which "blew a rod" (engine) and is now worthless.

Greg Negard, Executive Director of Paul Bunyan Transit, stated that including this bus, Paul Bunyan Transit has eight vehicles to serve their customers. Currently, seven buses are used daily such that with the loss of this eighth bus, there is no backup bus available. Discussion continued on the availability of Mn/Dot funding for the bus.

Motion by Erickson, second by Downs, to authorize the contribution of City local share of \$9,043 (\$2,500 from public transportation budget and \$6,600 from contingencies) towards the purchase of a new bus for Paul Bunyan Transit contingent upon the County approval of their local match and contingent upon Mn/DOT's share. Motion carried unanimously.

#### City Manager

Lehmann stated that the City received three proposals from search firms: Brimeyer Group, Inc., Sathre Executive Search and Springsted. Lehmann stated that he would like to see the Council consider hiring a search consultant. He commented that without a City Manager there is already an added burden on staff in particular Felix and Eischens. Lehmann stated that it may take up to four to five months before we make an offer to a successful candidate.

Erickson initiated discussion with the comment that she had a favorable impression of Brimeyer past contacts and noted that Brimeyer's list of clients is extensive. Erickson was comfortable with selection of the Brimeyer Group. Discussion continued on the desire that Jim Brimeyer be the lead consultant and contact with the Council if chosen.

Councilmembers did not feel the need to interview the three firms, though Councilmember Downs was hesitate because of Markeson's recent tenure on the Council and unfamiliarity with the firms. Councilmember Markeson felt he would be comfortable with the feelings of the majority to select Brimeyer.

Discussion followed regarding involvement of staff and key people in the community during the search and selection process. Lehmann stated that this is a critical time for the city as the city continues to experience significant growth.

Motion by Meuers, second by Markeson, to hire the firm of the Brimeyer Group with the condition that staff contact Jim Brimeyer to ensure he will act as the lead. Motion carried unanimously.

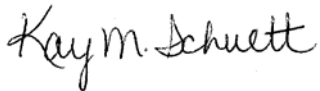
Phase II Study – Old Mn/DOT Yard

Felix provided a handout that the Council will consider at their next meeting regarding the Phase II environmental assessment services proposed by Braun Intertec for the old Mn/DOT yard on Rako Street.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, motion by Downs, second by Meuers, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay Murphy-Schuett  
City Clerk