

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

March 3, 2003

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, March 3, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, Mayor Lehmann presiding.

Upon roll call, the following Council members were declared present: Downs, Erickson, Zachman, Lehmann, Meuers, Hellquist, Johnson. Absent: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the February 18, 2003 Regular Council meeting were presented. There being no additions or corrections noted, motion by Erickson, second by Johnson, to approve the minutes as presented. All voted aye. Motion carried.

AMEND AGENDA

Mayor Lehmann called for any amendments to the agenda. There being no amendments, motion by Downs, second by Erickson, to approve the agenda as presented. All voted aye.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following consent agenda was presented for approval. Motion by Meuers, second by Hellquist, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes: Erickson, Hellquist, Zachman, Meuers, Lehmann, Downs, Johnson. Nays: None. Absent: None.

- (A) Approved eight (8) pages of claims in the total amount of \$303,342.70.
- (B) Approved two (2) general licenses per attached list and gambling permits for Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation – Raffle on 3/22/03; and Ruffed Grouse Society – Raffle on 4/10/03.
- (C) Approved Resolution No. 5032, Supporting Legislation to Provide Improved Funding Options for City Street Improvements.
- (D) Approved Resolution No. 5033, Accepting Responsibility as the Sponsoring Agency for a MnDOT Transportation Enhancement Project.
- (E) Approved a Road Maintenance Agreement with Eckles Township

BEMIDJI YOUTH ADVISORY COMMISSION REPORT

Terese Elhard reported that the February 18th forum went well. There was good discussion among the 40 attendees. Highlights of discussion were the results of the survey given to high school students earlier this year, gang activity awareness, importance of a safe place to live, drug and alcohol abuse, and development of a boys and girls club. Elhard noted that the weekly listening lunches are going well. She also noted that the Commission is planning another street dance to be held during the summer.

BSU STUDENT SENATE REPORT

Jason Swanson, BSU Student Senate representative, reported that the Student Senate elections resulted in six new members – 5 members were re-elected. Two BSU students have been selected to go to Washington D.C. to lobby. Students will also be meeting with MnSCU Board of Trustees on Friday to discuss various issues including tuition. He also noted that BSU held a forum today to address the impact of proposed state budget cuts.

PUBLIC HEARING: Annexation of Cedar Lane

Pursuant to mailed and published notice, a public hearing was held to consider the final reading of an ordinance annexing Cedar Lane. Mayor Lehmann opened the public hearing and invited anyone present to address the City Council in this regard. No one appeared. The public hearing was closed.

ORDINANCE NO. 333, 2ND SERIES: AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING THE PARCELS ALONG CEDAR LANE TO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF BEMIDJI was

given a final reading and passed by the following vote: Ayes: Lehmann, Hellquist, Downs, Johnson, Erickson, Zachman, Meuers. Nays: None. Absent: None.

PUBLIC HEARING: Annexation of Bardwell Park/HiWay Acres Areas

Pursuant to mailed and published notice, a public hearing was held to consider the final reading of an ordinance annexing the Bardwell Park/HiWay Acres areas. Mayor Lehmann opened the public hearing and invited anyone present to address the City Council in this regard.

Robert Kiewatt appeared and inquired about the signage at his existing business located on Highway 71 N. He expressed concerns that the existing signage will be non-conforming under City of Bemidji zoning regulations. Planner Oakes suggested that, once the annexation is complete and zoning has been established, he would review the status of the existing signage. It was suggested that the existing signage would be grandfathered in and permitted until such time as the signage requires reconstruction. At that time the property owner would be required to conform to City regulations or apply for a sign variance.

There being no further comments, the public hearing was closed.

ORDINANCE NO. 334, 2ND SERIES: AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING PROPERTY TO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF BEMIDJI (Bardwell Park Area/HiWay Acres Areas) was given a final reading and passed by the following vote: Ayes: Downs, Erickson, Zachman, Meuers, Hellquist, Johnson. Nays: Lehmann. Absent: None.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Joe Vene, Sales Tax Initiative Coordinator provided an update on the proposed one-half percent local sales tax proposal. He reported a favorable response from legislators during his visit to the Capitol on February 26th, and noted the need for support from small businesses in the Bemidji area.

BUDGET UPDATE

City Manager Minke reported on the League of Mn Cities informational meeting held earlier today to discuss the impact of proposed cuts to Local Government Aids. He noted that City departments are gathering information and preparing to discuss possible cuts. He suggested that budget cuts be the focus of the March 10th work session. It was suggested that the work session also include discussion of the City's participation in the proposed Law Enforcement Center.

ORDINANCE NO. 335, 2ND SERIES: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE 6 OF THE CITY OF BEMIDJI ZONING CODE (Pertaining to Automobile Sales, Rental and Service in the B-2 Zone – PC 03-01) was given a final reading and passed by the following vote: Ayes: Erickson, Hellquist, Zachman, Meuers, Lehmann, Downs Johnson. Nays: None. Absent: None.

ORDINANCE NO. 336, 2ND SERIES: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE 9 OF THE CITY OF BEMIDJI ZONING CODE (Pertaining to Promotional or Advertising Banners Displayed in Commercial or Industrial Areas in the City of Bemidji – Planning Case #2003-02) was given a final reading and passed by the following vote: Ayes: Zachman, Meuers, Lehmann, Downs, Johnson, Erickson, Hellquist. Nays: None. Absent: None.

REPORTS – STAFF/COUNCIL

Monday, March 10, 2003

5:30 p.m.

Council Work Session

ADJOURN

There being no further business presented for discussion, motion by Downs, second by Hellquist, to adjourn the meeting. All voted aye. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Shirley Sherman, City Clerk