

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

February 18, 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 Tuesday, February 18, 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: Lehmann, Hellquist, Downs, Johnson, Erickson, Zachman, Meuers. Absent: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the February 3, 2003 Regular Council meeting were presented. There being no additions or corrections noted, motion by Erickson, second by Hellquist, to approve the minutes as presented. All voted aye. Motion carried.

AMEND AGENDA

Mayor Lehmann called for any amendments to the agenda. City Manager Minke requested approval to add an item to discuss an open forum entitled "Come Together for a Just, Fair Budget" relative to the Governor's proposed budget cuts. Motion by Johnson, second by Downs, to approve the addition to the agenda. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- (A) Approved Six (6) General Licenses
- (B) Approved Gambling Permit for the Headwaters Chapter of Ducks Unlimited
- (C) Approved Consumption & Display Permit for Curling Club
- (D) Approved Temporary Liquor License for BSU (Oct. 3-4, 2003)
- (E) Approved Ten pages of claims in the total amount of \$327,330.35
- (F) Accepted Low bids for two (2) pickup trucks for the Sewer Line Division
- (G) Accepted Low bid for a pickup truck for Public Works Administration
- (H) Authorized Purchase of a used dump truck for Streets Division
- (I) Approved appointment of Erle Steigauf to the Police Civil Service Commission and Councilmember Barbara Meuers to the Boys & Girls Club Board

BEMIDJI YOUTH ADVISORY COMMISSION REPORT

Councilmember Meuers noted that Youth Commission members are attending a forum, which got underway at 7:00 p.m. this evening. The discussion items are based on the recent survey conducted by the Youth Advisory Commission.

BSU STUDENT SENATE REPORT

Jason Swanson, BSU Student Senate representative, reported that the February 12th lobby day at the Capitol was very successful. Swanson noted the Student Senate would be holding an open forum on February 19th in the Lower Hobson Union to discuss student issues.

RECOGNITION OF MEMBERS OF THE CITIZEN'S PATROL

Bruce Preece presented formal commendations to the Citizen's Patrol, on behalf of the Bemidji City Council. He noted that the Citizen's Patrol has proven to be a useful and valuable service to the public and the Bemidji Police Department, serving as extra eyes and ears on some of the busiest nights. The Citizen's Patrol also contributes a tremendous amount of volunteer time assisting at parades, waterfront events, school dances and sports. They also support the Police Department in homeland security

responsibilities to enhance surveillance of public buildings and sensitive locations. Kudos to each of the

FISHING HAS NO BOUNDARIES – Request for Use of the Waterfront

Vance Balstad presented a request to use the waterfront area and the Rotary Pavilion to hold the 2003 Fishing Has No Boundaries event to be held the last weekend in June. He noted that they would begin setting up for the event on June 27th. In addition to use of the waterfront area, the request included bus service for local disabled persons wanting to participate in the event, the use of two garbage dumpsters for the weekend, electrical service at the Rotary Pavilion and authorization to install three temporary docks. Motion by Downs, second by Zachman, to approve the request as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

City Manager Minke provided an update on Governor Pawlenty's recent proposal to cut Local Government Aids to cities for the years 2003 and 2004. He discussed the impact of the cuts and possible levy limits. Minke also noted that the City has been pushing capital expenditures off for the past several years. He suggested that situation will become more ominous with the proposed cuts. Concerns were expressed regarding the information used, noting that the figures are slanted and misleading. Minke noted that the City Council would be forced to make some decisions that are not going to be popular, if the Governor's proposal holds. Minke suggested that the proposed cuts threaten service levels throughout the City including public safety (police & fire) and streets which are the largest parts of the City's budget.

Citizens were encouraged to contact their representatives to fight the proposed cuts.

DISCUSSION – WORKING TOGETHER GUIDE

Councilmembers discussed using the "Working Together" guide at the March 10th work session as a way to improve group dynamics and decision making. The consensus of the Council was that the guide would be helpful and the possibility of using an outside facilitator was discussed. Council agreed to begin the process using the City Manager as the facilitator. If that is not productive, Council agreed to seek outside assistance.

RESOLUTION NO. 5031: A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR IBI (Itasca-Bemidji, Inc.) EXPANSION PROJECT was offered by Councilmember Zachman, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Meuers, was passed by the following vote: Ayes: Downs, Erickson, Zachman, Lehmann, Meuers, Hellquist, Johnson. Nays: None. Absent: None.

COME TOGETHER FOR A JUST, FAIR BUDGET

City Manager Minke provided information regarding a forum sponsored by the Bemidji Area Council of Non-profits to be held on February 27, 2003, 4:00-6:00 p.m. at Beltrami Electric Cooperative conference room. Councilmembers were invited to attend.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE 6 OF THE CITY OF BEMIDJI ZONING CODE Pertaining to automobile sales, rental & service in the B-2 Zone (Planning Case #2003-01) was given a second reading.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE 9 OF THE CITY OF BEMIDJI ZONING CODE Pertaining to promotional or advertising banners displayed in commercially or industrially zoned areas (Planning Case #2003-02) was given a second reading.

AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING CEDAR LANE TO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF BEMIDJI was given a second reading.

CITIZENS WITH BUSINESS BEFORE THIS COUNCIL – NOT ON AGENDA

Joe Vene provided an update on the local sales tax initiative. He noted a number of concerns have been raised about placing a cap on the sales tax. Vene explained that the local sales tax must mirror the state sales tax as nearly as possible. If there needs to be a cap, it would be established by the legislature – the City Council can't do anything to establish a cap.

REPORTS – STAFF/COUNCIL

Monday, February 24, 2003 5:00-6:30 pm Reception for board members and
commission members
Saturday, March 8, 2003 Chamber is hosting a legislative forum
Monday, March 10, 2003 Work Session - Working Together Guide

Councilmember Zachman requested Council authorization to attend the Coalition meeting in St. Paul on March 5-6, 2003 along with Mayor Lehmann and City Manager Minke. Motion by Hellquist, second by Meuers, to authorize travel reimbursement for Councilmember Zachman, Mayor Lehmann and Manager Minke to attend the Coalition meeting as requested. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

ADJOURN

There being no further business presented for discussion, motion by Downs, second by Johnson, to adjourn the meeting. All voted aye. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Shirley Sherman, City Clerk