

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA
Regular Meeting – February 19, 2008

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 19, 2008 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, Johnson, Meuers, Hellquist. Absent: Erickson, Downs, Markeson.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Lehmann called for any amendments to the agenda. Motion by Meuers, second by Johnson, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

MINUTES

Minutes of the February 4 regular meeting and February 11, 2008 work session were presented for approval. Motion by Johnson, second by Meuers, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval. Motion by Johnson, second by Hellquist, to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:

1. Approved Claims submitted by the Finance Officer in the total amount of \$1,911,954.75.
2. Approved miscellaneous business licenses.
3. Declared Equipment Surplus: 2000 Ford Ranger Pickup 4x4 (Fire Dept.) and 1982 Ford Sewer Jetter Cleaner (Street Dept.)
4. **RESOLUTION NO. 5473:** Revoking Municipal State Aid Street Segments
5. Approved Downtown Rehabilitation Project (Project No. 417-508)
6. Approved Purchase of Automated Lift Station Monitoring Equipment
7. Approved Pavers at Veterans Memorial
8. Approved Change Order #5 – Public Works Facility (\$21,925)
9. Approved Purchase of 3 Squad Cars and 1 Truck – Police Department
10. Approved Request for Letter of Support from the City as a Partner for a Proposal to Blue Cross for “Active Living”
11. Approved Appointment of Dave Larson to Events Center Design Review Committee

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – Kathy DeKrey, BYAC representative, stated that they are working on the skate park and fundraisers for the skate park, i.e., t-shirts. The Commission continues to work with the Parks & Trails Commission in this regard.

NEW BUSINESS

Chat-A-Bout Topic – March 3 – Mayor Lehmann will use this opportunity to discuss legislative work that has gone on for the event center.

ORDINANCES

An Ordinance Amending an Uncoded Section of the Bemidji City Code Pertaining to Street Vacation (Portion of 23rd Street) was given a first reading.

An Ordinance Amending an Uncoded Section of the Bemidji City Code Pertaining to Street Vacation (Portion of 6th Street SE) was given a first reading.

An Ordinance Amending an Uncoded Section of the Bemidji City Code Pertaining to Street Vacation (Portion of Second Street SW) was given a first reading. City Attorney Felix pointed out that staff is recommending this ordinance not be approved by the Council.

EVENT CENTER UPDATE

Steering Committee

Mayor Lehmann stated that at the last Council meeting the creation of a Steering Committee for the Event Center was tabled. City Manager Chattin has requested the creation of this Committee to ensure that the best decisions are made in moving the event center project forward. He recommended the following members be appointed: Mayor Richard Lehmann, Councilor Ron Johnson, City Manager John Chattin, City Engineer Brian Freeberg, Rob Bollinger, Dale Wolden, Scott Turn, Kathy Guess and Anne Sand.

Hellquist asked that the entire Council be on the Steering Committee as it would give them the option of being at the meeting.

Johnson commented that there is no need for the entire Council to be on the Steering Committee and he did not feel that the three day meeting notice requirement could be met.

Hellquist stated that he did not like it when the Council got information regarding the BSU lease agreement the same day and had to quickly make a decision.

Chattin stated that there were three councilmembers on the committee that negotiated the BSU Lease.

Meuers stated that there is a perception “out there” that all the decisions are made behind closed doors. If the information is provided on a weekly basis, it would help.

Chattin stated that the weekly newsletter provides a summary of all the committees that meet during the week. The concept of the Steering Committee was to have people he could bounce ideas off of. These are people that are intimately involved with the project. The City is building a \$8.5 million Public Works Facility where staff made many decisions without Council input and the decisions on the event center are more complex.

Meuers asked whether all the Steering Committee members lived within the city limits. She felt that while the city does not plan to use property taxes to pay for the event center or its operation, the committee should be city residents.

Mayor Lehmann stated that the Steering Committee was chosen as a cross-section of the community.

Johnson stated that the Council does this all the time with all the committees. The major decisions would still come to the Council.

Motion by Hellquist, second by Meuers, to authorizing a Steering Committee with members as proposed including the City Council. Motion failed with the following vote: Ayes: Meuers, Hellquist. Nays: Lehmann, Johnson.

Motion by Johnson, second by Meuers, to postpone the appointment of the Steering Committee until the next meeting. Motion passed with the following vote: Ayes: Meuers, Johnson, Lehmann. Nays: Hellquist.

CITIZEN NOT ON AGENDA

- Curt Oakes, City Planner, expressed his appreciation to the Council for his years of service to the City. He noted changes that have occurred since his hiring 16 years ago.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Monday, February 25 5:30 p.m. Work Session – TBD
- Monday, March 3 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting
- Monday, March 10 5:30 p.m. Work Session – TBD
- Monday, March 10 7:00 p.m. Birchmont Drive Public Hearing
- Monday, March 12 6:00 p.m. GBJPB
- Monday, March 17 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

- Mayor Lehmann stated that the hearing of the Economic Development Committee, regarding the event center, in St. Pau went well.
- Johnson reported that he is attending the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities meeting on February 20 where they will be discussing the LGA formula.
- Meuers stated that Servants of Shelter is a pilot program to house single women and children overnight at four area churches. She stated that other cities are doing this around the state. Bedding and overnight attendants will be at the church. Several agents in the community are involved with this effort including the Sheriff's office and Police Dept.
- Chattin reported that interviews for the Parks & Recreation Director will be held on Friday, February 22.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Hellquist, second by Meuers, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay M. Murphy
City Clerk