

**CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**  
**BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA**  
**Special Meeting/Work Session – December 21, 2009**

Pursuant to due call and notice, a special meeting/work session of the City Council of the City of Bemidji, Beltrami County, Minnesota, was held on Monday, December 21, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of City Hall, Mayor Lehmann presiding.

Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Lehmann, Waldhausen, Johnson, Hellquist, Downs, Negard Absent: Meuers

Staff Present: City Manager John Chattin, Finance Director Ron Eischens, Parks & Recreation Director Marcia Larson, City Engineer Craig Gray, City Clerk Kay Murphy

Mayor Lehmann stated that the purpose of the work session was to discuss and review the 2010 proposed budget.

Eischens stated that the budget is as tight as it is going to get without reducing services. The proposed 19.9% levy increase will recapture revenues lost through Local Government Aid (LGA) cuts in 2008 and 2009.

Chattin stated that if further cuts are made to LGA in 2010, the Council will have to make difficult choices. The options are to replace lost LGA through tax increases or cut services.

Negard stated that perhaps the purchase of some capital equipment could be delayed to save money in 2010. He suggested that during difficult times it may be better to delay. Discussion continued regarding delaying the purchase of capital equipment and the budgeted contractual employees. Staff noted that the purchase of some capital equipment has been delayed but that means the equipment is disintegrating.

Gray stated that the 2010 budget does not include any increases for wages, fuel or salt. He noted several services that the City provides that similarly sized cities do not, i.e., project pride and leaf pickup.

Hellquist commented that the City needs to look at its response to medical calls with fire department equipment/personnel. Chattin responded that there will be a variety of service cuts that he and the Department Heads will offer the Council. He stated that police and fire have not been impacted to date. Cuts would start with the Council deciding what services should be taken away.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, motion by Johnson, seconded by Downs, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay M. Murphy  
City Clerk