

# CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

## BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

### Regular Meeting – January 18, 2011

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, January 18, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, Mayor Larson presiding.

Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Larson, Waldhausen, Johnson, Hellquist, Albrecht, Thompson. Absent: Negard

Staff Present: City Manager John Chatten, City Attorney Alan Felix, City Engineer Craig Gray, Finance Director Ron Eischens, City Clerk Kay Murphy

#### **STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS**

Mayor Larson gave the annual State of the City Address. In summary, Bemidji is doing well during these uncertain economic times.

#### **AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA**

Mayor Larson called for any amendments to the agenda. The following items were requested to be added to the consent agenda:

- Travel Authorization for Bemidji Day at the Capitol on 2/1 – Albrecht, Johnson, Larson
- Travel Authorization for CGMC meeting on 2/9 – Johnson
- Transfer of Liquor License to Three Less One, Inc. – Bar 209

The following item was requested to be added under old business:

- Discussion regarding 2 a.m. bar closing

**Motion by Hellquist, seconded by Thompson, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

#### **MINUTES**

Minutes of the January 3, 2011 regular meeting, January 3, 2011 BEDA meeting and January 10, 2011 work session were presented for approval. **Motion by Hellquist, seconded by Johnson, to approve the minutes as prepared. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

1. Claims submitted by the Finance Officer in the total amount of \$4,955,464.03
2. Claims submitted by the Sanford Center in the total amount of \$78,759.67
3. 2010 Year to Date Invoices for the Sanford Center
4. Miscellaneous Business License Renewals for 2011
5. 1 Day Temporary Consumption & Display Permit for the Bemidji Chamber on 3/8/201
6. Purchase a Truck and Plow – Parks Department (Truck from Elk River Ford \$20,662 and Plow from Southside Towing \$5,426.76)
7. **RESOLUTION NO. 5667:** Support and Commitment for the Parks Master Plan and Authorization to Submit a Grant Application to the Northwest Foundation Community Planning Program
8. **RESOLUTION NO. 5668:** Designating 8<sup>th</sup> Street NW from Beltrami Avenue to Irvine Avenue as a Municipal State Aid Street
9. **RESOLUTION NO. 5669:** Providing for the Prepayment and Redemption of Certain General Obligation Bonds (2002 Improvement Bonds)
10. Policy Statement regarding Performance Evaluations
11. Enter into the Prosecution Services Agreement for 2011 with Beltrami County Attorney
12. Enter into a Joint Powers Agreement with Mn State Colleges and Universities
13. Sponsorship of the Annual Bemidji Day at the Capitol Reception (\$250)
14. Council Travel Authorization: Bemidji Day at the Capitol on 2/1 for Albrecht, Johnson, Larson and CGMC on 2/9 for Johnson
15. Transfer of a Liquor License to Three Less One, Inc. - Bar 209

**Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

### **CITIZEN NOT ON AGENDA**

No one appeared.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – Eugene Strowbridge, BYA representative, reported on Commission activities.

BSU Student Senate – Michael Meehlhause, Co-President, stated that the BSU students are in discussions regarding the location for commencement this spring. The majority of graduating students would like it at the Sanford Center in lieu of the John Glas Fieldhouse. Several BSU students will be attending Bemidji Day at the Capitol.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mayor Larson stated that he believed it was important for the City Council to continue a dialog regarding the 2 a.m. bar closing, after the discussion with the Beltrami County Commissioners. He stated that at the work session it appeared there was a consensus by the Council to be in agreement with the County's decision.

Felix stated that there are three options available to the Council: 1) do nothing at this time; 2) put in place a moratorium prohibiting action on potential 2 a.m. applicants until the county takes action; and 3) begin an ordinance process to return the city to 1 a.m. bar closing times.

Discussion followed regarding various viewpoints on the bar closing time. Johnson stated that he believed that the City could have areas that would allow only 2 a.m. closing. Felix responded that he did not believe that this was possible; however, he would be willing to check further if directed.

**Motion by Hellquist, seconded by Albrecht, to place a moratorium on receiving applications for 2:00 a.m. closing and begin the process of an ordinance to return to 1:00 a.m. Motion failed with the following vote: Ayes: Hellquist, Larson, Albrecht. Nays: Thompson, Waldhausen, Johnson.**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Bond Sale

Myron Knutson, bond counsel, reviewed the seven bids received for the sale of bonds. He stated that the low bidder, Wells Fargo, is a true interest cost of 5.4%. The number of bidders and narrow range of interest rates offered reflect good market demand for the City bonds. The City maintained its Aa3 bond rating despite the downturn in the economy. These factors indicate refinancing at this time provides the best opportunity for the City to minimize long term interest costs. He stated that the narrow range of interest bids is indicative of receiving excellent market rates, unfortunately long term interest rates have trended upward in recent days.

**RESOLUTION NO. 5670: Authorizing the Sale of Bonds to Refinance Sales Tax Bonds in the amount of \$44 million and committing \$696,038 of construction project contingency funds towards the initial shortfall was offered by Councilmember Hellquist, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Albrecht was passed by unanimous vote.**

#### Housing Development

Mayor Larson stated that Kuepers is now seeking reaffirmation of the Resolution of support approved by Council on May 17, 2010. Discussion continued regarding the portion of the building permit fees to be donated. Chattin stated that the Council does not need to include the amount in the resolution as the request for the donation of building permit fees will come before the Council. Hellquist commented that he thought the original discussion was 10 percent.

**RESOLUTION NO. 5671: In Support of Application by Westwood Heights Townhomes to MHFA for Allocation of Tax Credits for Proposed 30-unit Multi-Family Housing Projects (Pine Haven Townhomes Project) was offered by Councilmember Hellquist, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Albrecht was passed by unanimous vote.**

#### Active Living/Complete Streets

Matt Dyrdaahl, HRDC, reviewed the resolution to adopt the proposed amendments by the Active Living Partnership and Joint Planning Commission to the Joint Planning Board Transportation and Land Use Plans.

Hellquist stated that he supported the proposed amendments to the plans but was not in favor of any requirements that would cause any financial commitment by the City. Dyrdaahl responded that adoption of the amendments does not commit the City financially.

**RESOLUTION NO. 5672: Recommending Adoption of “Active Living/Complete Streets” Amendments Proposed to Joint Planning Board Transportation and Land Use Plans was offered by Councilmember Albrecht, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Thompson was passed by unanimous vote.**

City Utilities in 5-year Annexation Area

Gray stated that Beltrami County will be reconstructing Roosevelt Road in 2011 and has contacted the City regarding any potential utility needs. Gray, Chattin and JPB Staff have met with a representative of Bemidji Township and discussed the county project. The estimated cost of extending city utilities is \$500,000. A City survey regarding utilities was sent to residents on the north side of the road (annexation area) and the township mailed a similar survey to the property owners on the south side. Of the 15 sent on the north side, 13 responded and were not interested in city utilities and on the south side four responded with one favorably. Based on the survey results, Bemidji Township is not in favor of extending the utilities at this time.

**Motion by Waldhausen, seconded by Albrecht, to not extend city utilities to residents located along Roosevelt Road. Motion carried unanimously.**

**UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS**

- Monday, February 7 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting
- Monday, February 14 5:30 p.m. Work Session – North Country Park, South Shore Development (D. Hengel)
- Tuesday, February 22 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting


**COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT**

- Council members provided updates on current events and meetings.
- Waldhausen stated that the Sustainability Committee will be attending a future Council meeting to discussion their mission statement and get direction from the Council.
- Johnson reported that the Sanford Center Advisory Board has approved naming of the convention center area after George W. Nielson.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, motion by Thompson, seconded by Johnson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
 Kay M. Murphy  
 City Clerk