

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA
Regular Meeting/Work Session – April 10, 2006

Pursuant to due call and notice, a regular meeting/work session of the City Council of the City of Bemidji, Beltrami County, Minnesota, was held on Monday, April 10, 2006, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, Mayor Lehmann presiding.

Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Lehmann, Markeson, Hellquist, Johnson, Downs, Meuers. Absent: Erickson.

Staff Present: Ron Eischens, David Minke, Brian Freeberg, Al Felix, Kay Murphy-Schuett

Travel Authorization

Motion by Downs, second by Johnson, approving by travel Mayor Lehmann to St. Paul on April 12, 2006 and April 19, 2006. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Works Facility

Motion by Meuers, second by Markeson, to appoint Councilmember Hellquist to the Public Works Facility Architect Interview Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

Boiler at WWTF

Freeberg explained that the newly installed boiler requires changes in the piping that will raise the temperature of the return water to avoid corrosion problems.

Motion by Meuers, second by Downs, to approve the change order and authorize contractor to begin installation of the new pipe as soon as possible. Motion carried unanimously.

Nymore Road Conditions

Freeberg stated that the winter of 2005/2006 with an unusual high number of freeze thaw cycles was devastating to the City's already cracked and deteriorating pavements. He stated that 4th Street in Nymore literally fell apart this spring and needs to be reconstructed in 2006 rather than wait for the 2007 construction season. There are other streets around town that need attention in 2006 as well.

Freeberg noted that it is estimated to cost \$250,000 to reconstruct 4th Street from TH 197 to Pershing (that portion of 4th Street that has curb and gutter). Freeberg noted that approximately \$85,000 of the 4th Street reconstruction will be special assessed. The remaining part of 4th Street needs to be reconstructed with curb and gutter and storm sewer and at this point and time, the design and reconstruction of that part of the project could not be done this year. Freeberg recommended budgeting about \$20,000 to do patching and short overlays to make this part of 4th Street last another year. Additional streets in the Nymore area which need attention this year include 6th Street from Scott to Pershing and the intersection area of 7th Street and Lincoln Avenue at an estimated cost of \$50,000. Freeberg also recommended consideration be given to \$100,000 for street patching/overlays to move up the City's overlay program and give certain streets an additional 15 to 20 year life. The following is a cost estimate summary:

4 th Street – TH 197 to Pershing	\$250,000
4 th Street – Pershing to Lake Avenue	\$ 20,000
Other Nymore Street Patching	\$ 50,000
Overlay Program	<u>\$100,000</u>
	\$420,000

Eischens reviewed financing options for the \$420,000 noting that \$85,000 by special assessment. There are two options available to finance the remainder 1) from the liquor store fund – be aware that if the projects total the \$420,000 it will not be available in 2007 or 2) the Council can look at the 2006 projects and defer a project. Eischens noted that the only project that could be deferred is the Cross Street project which is ready to go for bid. Eischens recommended the Council finance with special assessments and liquor store funds. He noted that more extensive discussion in 2007 budgets on where the City can get the funding for street repairs.

Lehmann stated that deferring of road projects in the past has gotten the City to where it is today. He asked if there were any block grants available. Freeberg replied yes although it is not for streets.

Markeson recognized that there is an emergency to repairing the streets and expressed concerns about the use of the franchise fees for road repairs.

Discussion continued on various funding sources noting that the bottomline is that \$1 million each year is not enough to cover the street construction.

Motion by Downs, second by Johnson, direct staff to prepare a feasibility study on 4th Street repairs. Motion carried unanimously.

Hiring of City Manager

Lehmann asked if the Council wanted to undertake the hiring of the city manager or hire a professional headhunter service. If the Council does the hiring themselves, there are a number of procedures to be outlined.

Downs suggested that the Council ask the County if they would be willing to work with the City in the hiring process. Discussion continued on options for selection of a city manager.

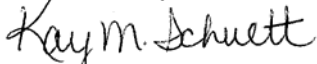
Minke stated that the most difficult thing is to get the Council to agree on the qualities for a city manager. The Council should include the community and staff in the process. He suggested that the Council agree on what they want to achieve in the next 5-7 years and focus on a candidate with those credentials.

Motion by Johnson, second Meuers, directing staff do a Request For Proposals for a search firm and to contact the County human resources department for their hiring process. The Council will discuss the city manager hiring at their May 8 work session. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Meuers, second by Downs, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay Murphy-Schuett
City Clerk