

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – May 5, 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 Monday, May 5, 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, Erickson, Downs, Meuers, Markeson, Hellquist.

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

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

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

MINUTES

Minutes of the April 21, 2008 regular meeting, April 14, 2008 work session, April 23, 2008 special work session and April 28, 2008 regular work session were presented for approval. Motion by Meuers, seconded by Downs, to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval. Councilor Hellquist requested that the item regarding Authorizing the City Manager to Sign the Agreement for Environment Work at Home Oil Site be pulled from the Consent Agenda. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Markeson, to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:

1. Approved Claims submitted by the Finance Officer in the total amount of \$322,265.97.
2. Approved miscellaneous business licenses for 2008.
3. Approved 1 Day Temporary Consumption & Display Permit – Chamber on 6/10/08
4. Approved Change Order No. 7 for Public Works Facility
5. Approved Change Order for Library Carpet
6. Authorized RFP for Meter Reading Services
7. **RESOLUTION NO. 5484:** Authorizing MnDOT Limited Use Permit for Nonmotorized Recreational Trail
8. Approved Downtown Building Rehabilitation Project (No. 417-521)
9. Authorized Contract for Asbestos Removal at 520 Rako Street (Buildings System Corporation - \$6,850)
10. Approved Appointment of Kari Munson to the Housing & Redevelopment Authority
11. Approved Police Patrol Union Contract for 2007-2009
12. Approved Council Travel – Downs on 4/29/08 (St. Paul Legislative Reception)

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – Michelle Frees, BYA Commission member, reported that the Commission is currently taking applications for Commission members which includes all high schools and current 8th graders. Plans continue for the June 7 event.

Bemidji State University Student Senate – Cody Nelson, Student Senate President, reported that students took a stance against allowing conceal and display of guns on campus. Mr. Nelson stated that it has been a good year for the Student Senate and they are very proud of the green fee that they enacted on campus. He stated that next year's president is Ryan Beck.

Motion by Hellquist, seconded by Markeson, to amend the Council agenda to add consideration of a Resolution Requesting Purchase and Conveyance of Tax-Forfeited Lands (N. Lake Irvine). Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Environmental Work at Home Oil Site

Hellquist requested this item be removed from the Consent Agenda, as he wanted to confirm the amount of the grant match.

Eischens stated that the 25% grant match could come from UDAG funds. Chattin stated that this one may be difficult to reimburse and is approximately \$4,500.

Felix stated that this matter arose before the Event Center project that focused on the Soo Line Corridor. This spill has to be dealt with. Discussion continued on using Contingency Fund for the match.

Motion by Hellquist, seconded by Downs, authorizing the City Manager to Sign the Agreement for Environmental Work at Home Oil Site and pay the 25% of the City's match from the Contingency Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

Appraisal Services for SE Lake Bemidji

Chattin stated that staff is in the process of preparing a SE Lake Bemidji funding scenario showing projected expenses and revenue sources to accomplish the redevelopment of the SE Bemidji project area, including the construction of the Bemidji Event Center. Chattin stated that staff has had discussions with Gary Battuello, Ramsland & Vigen Real Estate Appraisers, asking him to provide the city with valuation estimates or forecasts for the anticipated commercial outlot parcels and for the anticipated multi-family parcels. Mr. Battuello has provided an estimate of \$5,000 to \$6,500 (maximum) including expenses with a delivery date of May 23, 2008.

Discussion continued regarding the work to be completed by Mr. Battuello. Felix strongly recommended that in order to get good information the Council should have an outside appraiser. He further stated that it will not serve as an appraisal but provide the Council the best information available as they move forward making decisions regarding the SE Lake Bemidji project and the Regional Event Center.

Chattin noted that the City is considering this as a SE Lake Bemidji project and staff is attempting to put together a plan to recover the cost of the \$14 million development.

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Markeson, authorizing Ramsland & Vigen Real Estate Appraisers to provide a value of the City-owned parcels in the SE Lake Bemidji area by May 23, 2008. The cost for this service is \$5,000 to \$6,500 to be paid from contingency funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Industrial Park Expansion Project

RESOLUTION NO. 5485: A Resolution Accepting Petition, Designating Project Engineer, Calling for Preparation of Plans and Specifications, and Authorizing Advertisement for Bids on Improvement (Industrial Park Expansion Project) was offered by Councilmember Erickson, and upon due second by Councilmember Hellquist, was approved unanimously.

Tax-Forfeited Parcels

RESOLUTION NO. 5486: A Resolution Requesting County/State Department of Revenue Conveyance of Tax-Forfeited Parcels (North Lake Irvine) was offered by Councilmember Johnson, and upon due second by Councilmember Hellquist, was unanimously approved.

ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE NO. 28, 3rd SERIES: An Ordinance Amending an Uncoded Section of the Bemidji City Code (Authorizing the Sale of Real Property to Habitat for Humanity) was given a final reading and passed by unanimous vote.

EVENT CENTER UPDATE

Chattin briefly reviewed the update provided by Leo A Daly. He stated that he received a timeline from Leo A Daly which indicates that the project will move forward aggressively in the next few months. Discussion continued regarding the site assessment of the North Central Door property. Chattin stated that there was preliminary testing done on the site and it was thought that any environmental issues were minimal. The current budget has \$500,000 to \$1.5 million for environmental assessment for the project area.

LIBRARIAN REPORT

Paul Ericsson, Librarian, reported that their emphasis has been on the building renovation project and the carpet project is nearing completion. The Library will return to full service on Monday, May 19. Improvements will be made to the library lighting and renovations of the service desks will be made this summer. Nielson Foundation has provided a \$16,000 grant which will help with the project, a private donor contributed \$6,000, etc. Volunteer time exceeds 100 hours. Programming at the library continues despite the remodeling.

CITIZEN NOT ON AGENDA

Jim Williams, Alpine Trailer Park, noted that the City needs better sidewalks in the BSU area on Birchmont Drive and would like to see more bike lanes.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| • Tuesday, May 6 | 5:00 p.m. | Board of Review |
| • Monday, May 12 | | Work Session Cancelled |
| • Wednesday, May 14 | 6:00 p.m. | Joint Planning Board |
| • Monday, May 19 | 7:00 p.m. | Council Meeting |

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

- Lehmann reminded everyone that May 12 is Bemidji Capital for a Day. Mayor recognized former City Engineer Brian Freeberg and the work he has done for the City over the past years.
- Johnson stated that he will be meeting with the City Manager and Lakeland Public TV regarding a partnership to provide better cable access. He received a call from Mike Liapis regarding one of the entrances of the High School and thought that perhaps the façade could be incorporated in the convention portion of the event center. The Mayor stated that the information has been forwarded to Leo A Daly.
- Erickson reported that the tree giveaway was a success. The trees were provided by the Nielson Foundation. On May 17 the Bemidji Green Up will plant 150 trees which also were provided by the Nielson Foundation.
- Markeson stated that the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors recently had a retreat. The membership would like to see more marketing, legislative activity, support of small businesses and find ways to better serve the community.
- Hellquist reported that the detour on Irvine Avenue overall has been good.
- Murphy provided an overview of activities planned for the May 12 Capital for a Day event.
- Chattin reported that he and Councilor Downs attended a Legislative Reception in St. Paul hosted by the Chamber.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Downs, seconded by Meuers, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay M. Murphy
City Clerk