

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – February 7, 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 Monday, February 7, 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, Negard, Thompson

Staff Present: City Attorney Alan Felix, City Engineer Craig Gray, Finance Director Ron Eischens, Fire Chief Dave Hoefer, City Clerk Kay Murphy,

Mayor Larson asked for a moment of silence in honor of Howard Menge who was the Mayor of Bemidji in 1967 and 1968 and Ward 5 councilman in 1963 and 1964.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

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

- Additional claims submitted by the Sanford Center
- Accept Regional “Assistance to Firefighter Grant” for radio infrastructure digital upgrading

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

MINUTES

Minutes of the January 18, 2011 regular meeting and January 24, 2011 special work session were presented for approval. **Motion by Negard, seconded by Hellquist, to approve the minutes as prepared. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Claims submitted by the Finance Officer in the total amount of \$723,698.54
2. Claims submitted by the Sanford Center in the total amount of \$111,484.03 and \$89,765.15
3. Miscellaneous Business License Renewals for 2011
4. 2011 Budget Modification #1
5. Selected Consultant for Feasibility Study for “Shared Fire and Rescue Services” – Emergency Services Consulting International in the amount of \$26,804 (State Grant \$22,000, City of Bemidji \$2,402 and Bemidji Rural Fire Association \$2,402)
6. **RESOLUTION NO. 5673:** Restricting Parking on 8th Street NW from Irvine Avenue NW to Beltrami Avenue NW (SAP 105-140-001)
7. Purchase of GPS Equipment for the GIS Department from Frontier Precision in the amount of \$43,124
8. Accepted regional “Assistance to Firefighter Grant” for radio infrastructure digital upgrading from United States Fire Administration in the amount of \$216,037

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CITIZEN NOT ON AGENDA

David Quam, Bemidji Citizen Patrol, provided a brief update on the services provided by the Bemidji Citizen Patrol in 2010. He stated that the patrol is entirely made up of volunteers and in need of volunteers that are 35 years of age and older. Applications are available at the police department.

Mayor Larson commented that the service that the Bemidji Citizen Patrol provides to Bemidji is incredible.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – Sierra Beaulieu, BYA representative, provided an update on Commission activities.

BSU Student Senate – Michael Meehlhause, Co-Chair, stated that the Senate will be attending a rally day at the capitol. He stated that BSU is in the process “recalibrating” to handle the \$5 million cuts from the state.

PUBLIC HEARING

Gray reviewed the proposed 2011 Street Renewal Project. He stated that a neighborhood meeting was held on January 20 and only five residents attended.

Pursuant to published notice a public hearing was held regarding input on the 2011 Street Renewal Project #11-01. Mayor Larson opened the Public Hearing at 7:19 p.m.

- Sheila Johnson, owner of two properties on 24th Street, stated she missed the neighborhood meeting and wanted more information on the proposed assessment on her property. Gray will provide Ms. Johnson with the information.

With no further comments, Mayor Larson closed the Public Hearing at 7:21 p.m.

RESOLUTION NO. 5674: Ordering Improvement, Designating Project Engineer, Calling for Preparation of Plans and Specifications, and Authorizing Advertisement for Bids on Improvement (City Project #11-01) was offered by Councilmember Hellquist, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Waldhausen was passed by unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS

New Vision Project

Paul Richards, Architect with Widseth Smith Nolting, gave an overview of the proposed New Vision Project on behalf of the Headwaters Science Center. The proposed new regional center will encompass approximately 90,000 sq. ft. of galleries, classrooms, laboratories, an auditorium, administration offices and support spaces as well as outdoor educational areas with access to the Mississippi River. The project is envisioned to be a partnership between the Headwaters Science Center and Historical, Native American and the Arts communities.

Negard asked how the building will be sustained after it is built.

John Hawthorne, co-chair of the ad-hoc New Vision Committee, responded that there is no specific plan at this time. However, it will be developed with a business plan. He stated that the occupants will be tenants and pay for their spaces.

RESOLUTION NO. 5675: Supporting the New Vision Project and Official Application for State Capital Appropriation in 2011 Legislative Session for Development and Construction of the New Vision Project in Bemidji (formerly known as the Headwaters Science Center) was offered by Councilmember Albrecht, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Thompson was passed by unanimous vote.

Host City - Community Conversations

Albrecht would like the Council to consider submitting an application to the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) to host community conversation events in Bemidji. The League, in conjunction with the University of Minnesota Extension Service and the Bush Foundation, will be responsible for all the costs, facilitation, and planning of the meetings. The main role host cities play is in gaining support from a few community leaders—both to host conversations at their facilities and to help recruit participants. Albrecht stated that she is willing to work with City staff to prepare and submit the application.

Motion by Waldhausen, seconded by Johnson, to submit an application to the LMC to be a host city for community conversations. Motion carried unanimously.

LIBRARIAN’S REPORT

Paul Ericsson, Branch Manager, reviewed what the library has available in the world of electronic books. He briefly reviewed February events available at the library.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Monday, February 14 5:30 p.m. Work Session – North Country Park/South Shore Development (Hengel)
- Tuesday, February 22 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting
- Thursday, February 24 7:00 p.m. Annual Joint City/Rural Fire Meeting

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

- Dave Hoefer, Bemidji Fire Chief, provided the Council with the 2010 Annual Report.
- Council members provided updates on current events and meetings.
- Hellquist asked that the “flash reports” be sent to the Council from the Sanford Center after events.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Thompson, seconded by Johnson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Kay M. Murphy
City Clerk