

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA
Regular Meeting – July 3, 2006

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, July 3, 2006 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, Markeson, Hellquist, Johnson, Erickson, Downs, Meuers.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Lehmann called for any amendments to the agenda. The following addition was requested:

- Travel request for Markeson to attend a LMC meeting on July 11

Motion by Downs, second by Hellquist, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

MINUTES

Minutes of the June 19 regular meeting, June 14, 2006, June 26, 2006 special work sessions and BEDA June 26, 2006 minutes were presented for approval. Motion by Meuers, second by Downs, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval. Motion by Erickson, second by Markeson, to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:

1. Approved Claims submitted by the Finance Officer in the total amount of \$353,369.37.
2. Approved miscellaneous business licenses.
3. Approved Gambling Permits: Ducks Unlimited Raffle on 8/24/06 and Sexual Assault Program Raffle on 9/29/06.
4. Approved Council travel to CGMC Summer Conference in Red Wing (8/2-8/4) – Johnson and Erickson.
5. Approved Council travel to LMC meeting in St. Paul on 7/11/06 – Markeson.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC HEARING

2006 Street Reconstruction Project (City Project #06-19)

Pursuant to published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input regarding proposed improvements to 4th Street SE from TH197 to Pershing Avenue SE. Mayor Lehmann opened the Public Hearing at 7:10 p.m.

Sean McCroy, 917 4th Street SE, stated he lives one block past Pershing on 4th Street and was wondering if the project could be extended to Grant Avenue. At the same time he would like to see curb added.

City Engineer Freeberg replied that the streets from Pershing to the Lake are in preliminary design for a project to be completed next year. It is intended that there be curb and gutter street the length of 4th Street.

Sarah Hayden, 503 4th Street SE, stated she is happy with the project but has two concerns. The first concern is regarding the intersection of 4th Street and Central Avenue. The only thing that slows the traffic is the dip in the street and she has concerns about the speed on the residential street. She suggested that a 4-way stop be put in at the intersection. In addition, there is an abandoned home at this intersection and wanted to see what could be done to remove the vacant structure.

Erickson responded that the Council has started a condemnation process on the building.

Freeberg stated that the dip in the road at Central is created by storm sewer which will continue but be a smaller dip after the road construction. In addition, he will consider a stop sign to address any safety issues at this intersection.

Freeberg stated that the project will start September 1 and work will continue until freeze up in mid-October and completed in the spring.

With no further comment the Mayor Lehmann closed the Public Hearing at 7:14 p.m.

RESOLUTION NO. 5333: Ordering Improvement, Designating Project Engineer, Calling for Preparation of Plans and Specifications, and Authorizing Advertisement for Bids on Improvement (City Project #06-19) was offered by Councilmember Downs, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Erickson was passed by unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS

TH197 Enhancement Project

Freeberg reviewed the project stating that the City and Mn/DOT have been working toward enhancement improvements to TH197 corridor from Mississippi River to Washington Avenue. The project includes: 1) reconditioning of the stone wall overlooks; 2) concrete pavement and benches in the fence overlooks and under the fence; 3) planting beds with trees, shrubs, perennials, and ornamental grasses in each of the three grass islands and 4) irrigation of the islands.

RESOLUTION NO. 5334: Entering into a Cooperative Agreement with Mn/DOT for TH197 Enhancement Project was offered by Councilmember Downs, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Erickson was passed by unanimous vote.

1st Street Recondition Project

Freeberg stated the 1st Street SE is an arterial street which is eligible for Federal Highway funding. Last winter was an unusually hard on city streets and 1st Street should not wait until 2007 for improvements. Therefore, staff has moved 1st Street to 2006 construction still using 2007 Federal dollars. This means the City will have to upfront the Federal funds (\$419,000) in 2006 and be reimbursed in 2007.

RESOLUTION NO. 5335: Entering into an Agreement with Mn/DOT for 1st Street Recondition Project was offered by Councilmember Erickson, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Johnson was passed by unanimous vote.

Front End Loader

Eischens stated that in 2004 the Council considered rent versus purchase of a front end loader and at that time due to budget concerns the Council decided to continue to rent the loader as needed. Street Department staff has met with the vendor and has developed a rent to purchase agreement that is basically the same monthly rental amount that the City is currently paying. Eischens recommended that the Council consider purchasing the equipment and there are funds available in the street department budget. If needed, the City could borrow from the Capital Improvement Fund. The front end loader amount is \$89,000 which would include an extended warranty for five years on the vehicle. Discussion continued on the warranty.

Motion by Erickson, second by Downs, authorizing the city purchase a 444J John Deere Front End Loader for approximately \$89,000 including warranty using the Street Department budget and at the end of year if the Street Department funds cannot cover the cost then borrow from the Capital Equipment Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- July 10 – 5:30 p.m. – Regular Work Session – Audit
- July 11 – 5:30 p.m. – Special Work Session with Charter Commission
- July 13 – 5:30 p.m. – Special Work Session – Stormwater Issues

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

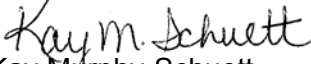
- Markeson provided an overview of the LMC annual conference that he attended.
- Erickson reported that the HRA Board is in flux and Diane Morey is new chair. HRA Director hiring is in process for Northland Apartments.

- Downs stated that on August 10 there will be a Paul Bunyan Trail ride starting at the Bemidji Pioneer. An invitation was sent to several people.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Hellquist, second by Downs, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Kay Murphy-Schuett
City Clerk