

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting/Work Session – May 11, 2009

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, May 11, 2009, at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of City Hall, Mayor Lehmann presiding.

Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Lehmann, Johnson, Negard, Waldhausen, Hellquist Absent: Meuers, Downs

Staff Present: City Manager John Chatten, City Engineer Craig Gray, Community Development Director Rita Albrecht, City Clerk Kay Murphy

Others Present: Mitch Rautio, Pat Donnay, Dale Thompson, Ade Mann, Al Belleveau and Cate Belleveau

Mayor Lehmann stated that the purpose of the meeting was to review the Central City Plan prepared by RDG Marketing.

Rita Albrecht, Community Development Director, provided an overview of how and why the marketing study was done for the downtown and south shore. She stated that the study cost \$60,000 and the funding was shared by the Downtown Development Association (DDA), City and Northwest Minnesota Initiative Fund. In March of 2008, RDG Marketing was hired and Central City Plan final draft was delivered in 2009 which staff has reviewed. RDG will make a formal presentation of the plan in June to the Council and at an open house for the general public. She stated that the plan is a valuable tool which can be used as the handout for interested developers as well as long-term planning for redevelopment of the downtown.

Mitch Rautio, DDA President, reviewed the list of things that the DDA does in Bemidji. He stated that the DDA has prepared a list of priorities, timing and funding plan as follows:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Time Frame</u>	<u>Suggested Funding</u>
1. Lot 3 Reconstruction	2009	City, DDA Parking Fund
2. Downtown Wayfinding	2009	City, DDA
3. Streetscape	2009-2010	City CIP, BC/BS, DDA, Grant
4. Transit	2009-2010	City, County, MnDOT
5. Pathways	2009-2010	City, DDA, Businesses
6. Paul Bunyan Park	2011-2013	City, Grant
7. Façade Improvements	< 5 years	BEDA-DDA Revolving Loan, Businesses
8. Gateway Structure	< 5 years	City, DDA
9. Parking Ramp Lot 4	< 5 years	City, DDA Parking
10. South Downtown Revitalization	< 5 years	City, Businesses

Rautio commented that Parking Lot #3 is in the process of being upgraded to improve safety and appeal. There are some business owners that have expressed concern about the reduction in parking spaces and he is in the process of meeting with downtown business owners regarding the chosen design for Lot #3. He stated that most business owners that he has spoken to are in favor of the new design.

City Engineer stated that the Council has already approved the plan and the bids will be going out the second week of June.

Ade Mann commented that parking is very important for business owners and he is not in favor of the new plan as too many parking spaces are lost.

Albrecht recommended that a group of City and DDA members review the plan on an annual basis and submit a report to City and DDA of accomplishments, upcoming initiatives and changes to the plan.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Hellquist, seconded by Johnson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay M. Murphy
City Clerk