

# CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

## BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

### Regular Meeting – April 2, 2007

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, April 2, 2007 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**

Mayor Lehmann called for any amendments to the agenda. The following additions were requested:

- Ducks Unlimited Raffle on 8/24/07 at Hampton Inn
- Authorize Council Travel - LMC 2007 Conference in Duluth - Johnson

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

#### **MINUTES**

Minutes of the March 19 regular meeting, March 12 and March 26, 2007 work sessions were presented for approval. Motion by Meuers, second by Markeson, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

1. Approved Claims submitted by the Finance Officer in the total amount of \$375,897.16.
2. Approved miscellaneous business licenses.
3. Approved Gambling Permits:
  - Pheasants Forever Raffle at Eagles Club on 4/19/07
  - Ducks Unlimited Raffle on 8/24/07 at Hampton Inn
4. Approved a One-day Temporary Consumption & Display Permit: Bemidji Arts Center on May 23, 2007 at Headwaters School of Music & Arts
5. Approved **RESOLUTION NO. 5402** Approving the Site for the 2007 Art in the Park Event.
6. Approved **RESOLUTION NO. 5403** Approving the Site for the 2007 Kraus-Anderson Walleye Classic.
7. Approved Request to Consume Alcohol at a Private Dinner Affair at the Bemidji Regional Airport Conference Room – April 13, 2007.
8. Awarded Contract for 2007 Wellfield Watermain Extension to Christiansen Industrial Developers in the amount of \$69,679.
9. Awarded Quote for Lift Station & Storm Sewer Cleaning & Sanitary Television to Viet and Company in the amount of \$27,708.75.
10. Awarded Quote for Root Removal & Cleaning of Sanitary Sewers to Infrastructure Technologies, Inc. (Infratech) in the amount of \$27,820.80.
11. Declared Five Police Department Vehicles as Surplus.
12. Authorized Council Travel:
  - Best Practices for Parks & Outdoor Recreation, April 11 & 12 in Duluth - Downs
  - LMC 2007 Conference in Duluth, June 27-29 – Markeson & Johnson

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – Kathy DeKrey reported that the Commission continues to work on June 7 event and that students can be excused by parents to attend.

In addition, they are working with Boys & Girls Club on a film festival the event which will be held the third week in May.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Sale of Bonds

Eischens stated that the City may issue revenue bonds as a means of financing street and/or utility construction project, primarily the Birchmont Drive and Industrial Park Expansion projects.

**RESOLUTION NO. 5404: Declaring the Official Intent of the City of Bemidji to Reimburse Certain Expenditures from the Proceeds of Bonds to be Issued by the City (Sale of Bonds) was offered by Councilmember Erickson, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Markeson was passed by unanimous vote.**

Contribution to Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities

Mayor Lehmann stated that the MPCA is proposing a 1 mg/L statewide phosphorus limit which will impose an enormous financial burden on some thirty-five greater Minnesota Cities without providing any noticeable environmental benefit. The City of Bemidji’s current effluence level is .3 mg/L. Lehmann stated that other cities in the Coalition may have an issue with meeting the standard proposed and Bemidji should show its support by contributing to the Coalition.

Councilmembers commented that they want to see clean water. Erickson commented that under normal circumstances she could not support this position because we are looking for clean water, however, the MPCA’s report indicates that the benefits will be largely intangible and go unnoticed by most Minnesotans. She stated that as a Coalition member, we need to support one another. Erickson stated that it was unfairly burdening cities and not addressing the contributors to the pollution.

Johnson stated that at the recent Coalition meeting they indicated that they might sue the MPCA as there is no science to back up the requested standard.

Markeson stated that phosphorus is a problem and he is concerned with water quality. He noted that he is not in favor because the City is in compliance with the proposed MPCA limit.

**Motion by Erickson, second by Hellquist, to authorize a \$1,500 contribution to the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities to lobby against the MPCA lowering the phosphorous standard and directed staff to find funding in the budget. Motion carried with the following vote: Downs, Meuers, Erickson, Johnson, Lehmann, Hellquist. Nays: Markeson.**

**ORDINANCES**

Pursuant to published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input regarding Amending the City of Bemidji Fee Ordinance No. 7, 3<sup>rd</sup> Series, by Adopting Planning and Zoning Fees Approved by the Greater Bemidji Area Joint Planning Board. Mayor Lehmann opened the Public Hearing at 7:22 p.m., hearing no comments the public hearing was closed.

Erickson stated that the application fee for a variance seemed exorbitant. She commented that it was high for someone who is making an improvement to their home and they have to invest \$250 to find out whether or not they can do it. Lehmann stated that the fees were designed as an average of the City and Township’s current fees.

**AN ORDINANCE** Amending the City of Bemidji Fee Ordinance No. 7, 3<sup>rd</sup> Series, by Adopting Planning and Zoning Fees Approved by the Greater Bemidji Area Joint Planning Board. was given a second reading.

**AN ORDINANCE** Amending Chapter 16 of the Bemidji City Code (Pertaining to Burning Leaves) was given a first reading.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- April 9                    5:30 p.m.            Work Session – Discuss Joint Planning Board Budget
- April 16                   7:00 p.m.            City Council Meeting
- April 30                   5:30 p.m.            Special Council Meeting – Award Contract Public Works Facility and Nymore Warming House

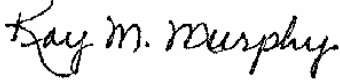
**COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT**

- Chattin reported that the staff continues to work with the school on negotiating an arrangement to possibly expand the wellfield. The Labor Management Committee has been reviewing health insurance providers and the Personnel Policy. Chattin stated he attended a League of Mn Cities Conference and a FCC Rules update meeting. He commented that there will be meetings with Leo A Daly regarding the Event Center this week. The City is getting close to getting a contract with Brad's Sanitation.
- Markeson reported that the Heritage Preservation Commission has been working on amending the City Code which is being reviewed by Attorney's office. The Boys & Girls Club recently held an open house for the grand opening of their community center.
- Johnson attended the Coalition of Greater Mn Cities and the League meeting last week. Johnson reviewed the 2007 Session LGA proposals. Discussion continued on the Diamond Point Park and the recreational building location at the Park versus the waterfront. He suggested that the Council have a work session to discuss the park plan. Discussion continued on the Parks & Recreation Commission recommendation to the Council.
- Downs attended the VisitBemidji meeting and they discussed the use of the Waterfront. Paul Bunyan Trail Ride will be on Thursday, August 9.
- Mayor Lehmann attended the Tiny Tots expo at the Boys & Girls Club and it was well attended.
- **Motion by Meuers, second by Hellquist, to appoint Erickson to the Public Affairs Committee replacing Hellquist. Motion carried.** Meuers stated that in honor of National Library Week on April 11 there will be an event at the Library from 12-3 p.m. honoring our volunteers and welcoming the new Librarian, Paul Ericsson. The Library is celebrating 100 years in Bemidji.
- Erickson sent her condolences to the White family in Red Lake. She attended the HRA meeting last week and there are two vacancies on the Board. She met with the Deer Committee regarding a potential deer hunt in the fall. The Chief of Police is in favor of the deer hunt continuing as it was successful. The deer enclosure on Barry Yocum's property has to be relocated as he has put the property up for sale.
- Hellquist reported that he was on Chat-A-Bout today with Chief Johnson. They emphasized the necessity of riding bikes with helmets, riding with traffic and sharing the road.
- City Attorney Al Felix stated that Assistant City Attorney Brand's last day will be April 20 and he hopes to fill the position in the month of May.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, motion by Meuers, second by Markeson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay M. Murphy  
City Clerk