

Council Proceedings

Special Meeting/Work Session

November 22, 2004

Pursuant to due call and notice, a Special Meeting/Work Session of the City Council of the City of Bemidji, Beltrami County, Minnesota, was held on Monday, November 22, 2004, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, Mayor Lehmann presiding.

Upon roll call the following Council members were declared present: Zachman, Meuers, Lehmann, Downs, Johnson, Erickson, Hellquist.

Staff Present: Minke, Oakes, Sherman

METRO PLAINS PRESENTATION – HIGH SCHOOL REUSE

Mayor Lehmann noted the purpose of the meeting was to review information from Metro Plains regarding the potential reuse of the historic high school building/property.

John Errigo, Development Coordinator/Project Manager, and Gary Stenson, principle owner of Metro Plains provided information regarding Washington Crossing, a recently completed project in Winona. Errigo noted that the project is similar to what they would propose for Bemidji. Their presentation highlighted the quality of work in their historic rehabilitation development/adaptive reuse projects and identified project costs and funding structure for the Winona project.

Errigo noted that Metro Plains is still interested in pursuing a project for the historic Bemidji High School building which lays out well for housing. However, he expressed the need for local support in order to access funds through Minnesota Housing Finance Agency and the Department of Employment & Economic Development. In addition to funding from these sources, Errigo noted that the project would require some form of gap financing to be provided by the City of Bemidji. He expressed the need for some direction from the Council to assist Metro Plains in deciding what their next step should be.

During discussion, Metro Plains representatives responded to a variety of questions and comments from the Council and other persons in attendance at the work session. Jon Quistgaard, from Bemidji State University, indicated the university still has an interest in the property and suggested a work session with the Council to review their updated plans.

COUNCIL ACTION

Council will meet with BSU on December 13th at 5:30 p.m.
The High School reuse issue will be on the December 20th meeting for further Council action.

ADJOURN

There being no further business presented for discussion at this time, motion by Hellquist, second by Downs, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Sherman, City Clerk