

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – September 17, 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, September 17, 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

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

- Johnson to travel for Coalition Annual Conference
- Consider new Liquor Store Signage under New Business

Motion by Meuers, second by Markeson, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

MINUTES

Minutes of the September 4 regular meeting and September 10, 2007 work session were presented for approval. Motion by Erickson, second by Hellquist, to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Approved Claims submitted by the Finance Officer in the total amount of \$1,350,743.99.
2. Approved miscellaneous business licenses.
3. Approved 1-day temporary Consumption & Display Permit (10/25/07) – Arts Council.
4. Authorized purchase of automated refuse packer to MacQueen Equipment Co. in the amount of \$95,437.
5. **RESOLUTION NO. 5429:** Declaring Costs to be Assessed, Ordering Preparation of Proposed Assessment Rolls, and Establishing a Date for Public Hearing for City Project #07-07 (4th Street SE – Pershing to Lake Avenue).
6. Approved Reapportionment of Special Assessments – Woytassek Custom Homes.
7. Awarded Quote for Boulevard Tree Planting to Clearwater Nursery in the amount of \$7,375.
8. Authorized Boiler Maintenance Agreement for Old MnDOT Building to Donald Robinson.
9. Authorized Council Travel – Coalition Greater Minnesota Cities Annual Conference in Alexandria – November 7-9 (or date) – Erickson and Johnson.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – Leslie Rith-Najarian, President of BYAC, stated that the Commission appreciates the opportunity to be representatives for the City. Introduction of members of the Youth Commission were made.

Bemidji State University Student Senate – Cody Nelson, BSU student Senate President, reported that the Senate has four focus points for the year: 1) campus infrastructure; 2) communication processes; 3) signature themes on campus civil and environmental; and 4) student engagement – campus community, Bemidji community and other ways.

Downs commented that Lake Bemidji is one of the main focuses and hoped for the Student Senate to lead the way.

OLD BUSINESS

City Attorney Alan Felix reviewed a the resolution requesting conveyance of four tax-forfeited parcels to the City for future use in a low and moderate income housing project to be undertaken in partnership between the Beltrami county Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) and the Headwaters Housing Development Corporation (HHDC).

Terry Smart, 514 Woodland Avenue SW, stated that it was “silly” to use these lots for low to moderate income homes and the neighborhood is concerned.

RESOLUTION NO. 5430: Requesting Conveyance of Tax-Forfeited Lands (4 parcels to the City of Bemidji) was offered by Councilmember Erickson and upon due second by Councilmember Meuers was passed by unanimous vote.

BSU Outdoor Program Center (OPC)

City Manager John Chattin stated that the lease agreement with BSU has been modified to include a penalty clause for early lease termination. The University has been willing to make accommodations for the City but did not want to deviate too far from their original understandings. In addition, City staff met with BSU and there is a draft memorandum of understanding addressing Council concerns regarding parking and security. These items were not made part of the OPC lease as the City expects to adjust on how to handle these issues as we gain experience. In addition, BSU will be placing cameras on the OPC and the City may want to do the same on their buildings.

Downs suggested that BSU could place cameras on our buildings and monitor them for the City. Chattin is discussing this with BSU and exploring the cost for cameras.

Markeson noted that the wording in the lease agreement under duties of cities should be “property” not “building” and liability insurance.

Motion by Councilor Downs, second by Johnson, to approve the lease with Bemidji State University for the Diamond Point Park Outdoor Program Center with correction noted. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

GO Capital Improvement Bonds, Series 2007

Myron Knutson, with the PFM Group, reviewed the GO Bond bid results stating that nine (9) bids were received and recommended the City select the low bid from Stifel Nicolaus & Co., Inc. at a true interest rate of 4.04 %. In addition, Mr. Knutson recommended that the City include two outstanding bonds in the sale. The low bidder has agreed to finance the two callable bonds which will result in a net savings of \$25,792.70. Eischens stated that the two outstanding bonds are 1994 and 1999 Improvement Bonds.

RESOLUTION NO. 5431: Awarding the Sale of \$4,810,000 General Obligation Capital Improvement Bonds, Series 2007; Fixing their Form and Specifications; Directing their Execution and Delivery; and Providing for their Payment was offered by Councilmember Downs and upon due second by Councilmember Markeson was passed by unanimous vote.

Diamond Point Park Interpretative Signage

Council postponed awarding the bid for Diamond Point Park Interpretative Signs until the next Council meeting.

TNT Hearing Date

Motion by Downs, second by Johnson, setting the date for the Truth In Taxation hearing on December 3, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. and, if needed, a continuation hearing on December 10, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Chat-A-Bout Topic

Council consensus was to have the City Manager and Cliff Tweedale on Chat-A-Bout to discuss the Events Center project.

Liquor Store Signage

Motion by Downs, second by Markeson, to approve the purchase of signs for the north and south liquor stores and noted that the spelling of Lake View needs to be corrected. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCES

AN ORDINANCE Amending an Uncoded Section of the Bemidji City Code (Authorizing the Sale of Real Property) (Trustar Credit Union) was given a first reading.

AN ORDINANCE Amending an Uncoded Section of the Bemidji City Code (Authorizing the Sale/Exchange of Real Property) (DeMarchi) was given a first reading.

EDA Grant

Cliff Tweedale, HRDC, announced that the Economic Development Administration (EDA) has notified the HRDC that the City of Bemidji and Bemidji Development Corporation will receive \$1.2 million in federal grant funds to expand the Industrial Park. The funds will be used to install water, sewer, street, curb, lighting, and storm sewer improvements in the most recent expansion of Industrial Park, south of Carr Lake Road. In addition to the federal funds, the expansion will be paid for using the following resources: \$500,000 from the Minnesota Investment Fund, \$292,711 from City Utility Funds and \$775,505 from Bemidji Development Corporation. Based upon the history of the existing Industrial Park, it is estimated that over 300 new jobs could be created

EVENTS CENTER UPDATE

Cliff Tweedale, HRDC, stated he is working with BSU President Jon Quistgaard’s office to set up a meeting for a work session or special work session with the City Council at Dr. Quistgaard’s earliest opportunity.

Downs would like to see a representative from MnSCU included in the discussions with BSU. Tweedale stated that this is a question that he will explore with Dr. Quistgaard.

Erickson stated she is losing her “zest” for the project and hoped that this is as high a priority for BSU as it is for the City. Tweedale assured Erickson that he will set up a meeting as soon as he can.

Tweedale commented that the House Capital Investment Committee will be meeting with the City at 4:00 p.m. on September 18. Leo A Daly has put together a terrific packet of information for the upcoming House and Senate Committee meetings.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Monday, September 24 5:15 p.m. Work Session
- Wednesday, September 26 5:15 p.m. GB Joint Planning Board – Work Session
- Monday, October 1 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting
- Monday, October 8 5:30 p.m. Work Session
- Wednesday, October 10 6:00 p.m. GB Joint Planning Board @ Bemidji Township

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

- Chattin reported that he attended the Emergency Operations Drill and he noted that the Firefighters and Police did an outstanding job. A public information forum regarding Clausen Avenue Trail was held with close to 20 attendees.
- Mayor Lehmann reported that there is a motorcycle ride for four local non-profits that will be held on Saturday, September 22 which leaves from the waterfront at 9:00 a.m.
- Erickson attended the Nymore Days Street Dance and heard there were calls to Law Enforcement which were mostly due to noise. She stated that the event raised \$6,500 for the Shriners Children’s Hospital. Erickson reported that the deer hunt started on September 15 and yielded 7 does. She stated that a house on 4th Street SE is taking a long time to remove and had concerns about safety with the exposed pipes and would like it to be removed. Lastly, she encouraged other Councilors to visit the new Nymore Warming House which is quite nice. Bemidji Green Up is meeting to discuss planting of trees at the Nymore Park.
- Downs felt that the Nymore Days event was successful and hoped that minor corrections can be made to make it successful next year. He suggested that perhaps they should keep the area smaller. He toured Diamond Point Park last week and it looks really good and would like to see cameras in the park to prevent graffiti and vandalism. He stated that he supports the Clausen Trail which will provide a safe and orderly way for snowmobiles to exit/enter the City.
- Johnson reported that he attended the first meeting for the LMC Telecommunications Task Force. The League is working on gathering information to develop a policy

regarding telecommunications. Their next meeting will be October 12. He reported that the Airport Commission will meet on Wednesday, September 19 and will be touring the FBO building.

- Markeson stated that the Parks & Recreation Commission met last week and Kathy DeKrey from the Youth Advisory Commission provide information regarding a skateboard park for Bemidji. Ms. DeKrey is looking for assistance in writing a grant for a skateboard park.
- Hellquist stated that the Nymore Days Street Dance was attended by many Shriners. He asked if the Clausen Trail summary of comments had been tabulated yet. Chattin responded that as soon as the summary is prepared he will make that available to the Council. Hellquist reported that DDA Board invited the director of the Methadone Clinic who did a presentation. The information was good and he suggested she come to a future Council meeting. The DDA has been working with the STS workers regarding improvements to the downtown benches and refuse receptacles.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Downs, second by Meuers, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay M. Murphy
City Clerk