

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – January 22, 2008

Pursuant to due call and notice, a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Bemidji, Beltrami County, Minnesota, was held on Tuesday, January 22, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, Mayor Pro-tem Downs presiding.

Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Johnson, Erickson, Downs, Markeson, Hellquist. Absent: Lehmann, Meuers.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

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

- Authorize library painting contract

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

MINUTES

Minutes of the January 3 special council meeting, January 7 regular council meeting, January 7 BEDA meeting, January 10 special work session and January 14, 2008 work session were presented for approval. Motion by Hellquist, second by Johnson, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Approved Claims submitted by the Finance Officer in the total amount of \$1,749,247.53
2. Approved Business License Renewals for 2008
3. Approved two 1-Day Temporary Consumption & Display Permits for Chamber events on: 2/1/08 and 3/8/08
4. Approved 1-4 Day Temporary On-Sale Liquor License – BSU Opera Night on 2/23/08
5. **RESOLUTION NO. 5462:** Regarding At Risk Youth Multi-Disciplinary Team
6. **RESOLUTION NO. 5463:** Application for a Gambling Permit for the American Legion Post #14
7. **RESOLUTION NO. 5464:** Regarding Participation In and Support for Shared Vision!
8. Approved Purchase of Engineering Plotter with Scanner from Mathison Co. (\$18,100)
9. Approved Purchase of Water Pump from RSC Equipment Rental (\$29,196)
10. Approved Downtown Rehabilitation Projects (Project No. 417-507, 417-512 & 417-513)
11. Approved Travel Authorization to St. Paul CGMC Joint Meeting on 1/24/08 – Johnson
12. Authorized library painting contract to Ley's Painting (\$14,040)

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – Kali Sandmeyer, BYC representative, reported that Jordan Marshall will represent the Bemidji Youth Commission at the Bemidji Day at the Capitol. Three committees have been set for the June 7 event which they plan to hold it at Cameron Park this year due to Bemidji Avenue construction.

NEW BUSINESS

Nymore Water Tower Reconditioning

The Council discussed logos on the water tower. Downs stated that he considered the logo to be visual pollution and he would not like the logo facing the lake.

City Manager John Chattin stated that one logo should be placed on the water tower toward Paul Bunyan Drive and 1st Street. He stated that the amount for the logo is minor.

City Engineer Craig Gray stated that the tower will be painted to match the other two towers. He agreed that if the Council does just one logo it should face the highway and place a second logo facing the other direction.

Johnson commented that he would like to see the second logo on the tank as this area will be developing and there will be snowmobiles, etc., coming from the west into town.

Hellquist asked what the longevity of the water tower is. Gray responded that the normal life expectancy of a water tower is 50-100 years, if the tank is reconditioned every 20 years or so.

Motion by Erickson, second by Hellquist, to award the Nymore Water Tower Reconditioning (City Project No. 06-07) to LeadCon, Inc. in the amount of \$302,400 after deducting \$1,000 for one logo. Motion carried unanimously.

Master Planning Services

Chattin reviewed the request for proposals for soliciting consultant qualifications for a downtown market study and master planning services. Seven consultants submitted their qualifications and two of those presented to a group of city, HRDC, DDA and Chamber representatives. He commented that the area of the original site considered has doubled where the market study will be conducted.

Markeson was pleased that the old "Mn/DOT" building area was included in the market study area.

Downs suggested that the market study look at the feasibility of removing the Lakeview Liquor Store and rebuilding in the events center region.

Discussion continued regarding the waterfront study and getting a grant. Concern was expressed that it was overlapping. Chattin commented that the two studies are different.

Erickson commented that the study looks comprehensive but she would like representatives from the Heritage Commission and Bemidji Green Up to be involved in the steering committee.

Chattin asked that staff be allowed to enter into a contract agreement with RDG Planning and Design as the project consultant, while securing the appropriate funding package. Staff would like to get the effort rolling as soon as possible. Markeson stated that it is important that multiple groups be involved in the funding. The more groups the better result.

Hellquist stated that this study is important to the City for many reasons especially for the City and downtown. He stated that an inventory has been done by BSU and a study by Dick Rose Architect, but these are bits and pieces. This study would give us an up to date comprehensive plan which will help with the planning for these areas. He further stated that it is important to the City for a building block for the next 20 years.

Johnson stated that having this study will help in redevelopment plans for SE Lake Bemidji.

Laddie Elwell, Headwaters Science Center, asked if the future site of the HSC is included in the study area.

City Manager Chattin responded yes and it is important that the Headwaters Science Center be included in the discussion.

Motion by Hellquist, second by Markeson, authorizing staff to submit a pre-application to the Northwest Minnesota Foundation requesting \$20,000 in support of a downtown master plan, and commit \$15,000 from the City Permanent Improvement Fund toward that effort plus \$25,000 from the City's Parking Fund, which the DDA dedicated to this purpose in 2006. In addition, authorizing staff to enter into a contract agreement with RDG Planning and Design as the project consultant, and to continue pulling together the appropriate financing package. Motion carried unanimously.

Chat-A-Bout Topic

DeAnn Zavoral from the Chamber and Kay Murphy, both Capital for A Day committee members, will go on Chat-A-Bout on February 4, 2008 to discuss events for May 12 - Bemidji Capital For A Day.

ORDINANCE

Pursuant to published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input regarding an Ordinance Amending an Uncoded Section of the Bemidji City Code (authorizing the conveyance of real property – Heathman). Mayor Pro-tem Downs opened the Public Hearing at 7:32 p.m., hearing no comments the public hearing was closed.

AN ORDINANCE Amending an Uncoded Section of the Bemidji City Code (Authorizing the Conveyance of Real Property – Heathman) was given a second reading.

EVENTS CENTER UPDATE

City Manager Chattin reported that the HRDC met last week with staff regarding moving the process forward. Staff continues to have work with CSL and Leo A Daly on the legislative package. He stated that he will be meeting with the DNR to hopefully finalize the trail route on SE Lake Bemidji this week.

Erickson asked when the new operations and maintenance study will be available from CSL.

Chattin stated that it will be approximately one more month. He stated that the City threw a “curve ball” at Mr. Krueger when our requests changed. Now, the City is looking at just an arena with a conference center or a conference center with attached flat space. As soon as the report is available, it will be shared with the Council.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Monday, January 28 5:30 p.m. Work Session – Prevailing Wages
- Monday, February 4 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting
- Monday, February 11 5:30 p.m. Work Session - TBD
- Wednesday, February 13 6:00 p.m. GBAJPB
- Tuesday, February 19 5-6:30 p.m. OPEN HOUSE - Volunteers
- Tuesday, February 19 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

- **Motion by Erickson, second by Markeson, to authorize travel for Councilor Downs to attend the Parks & Trails meeting in Duluth on February 1, 2008. Motion carried unanimously.**
- Hellquist reported that the HR committee for the GBJPB met to review the 31 resumes for the Planning Assistant position. He stated that there were a wide variety of credentials and out of the 31 resumes they have narrowed it to eight applications. The committee will interview 5 or 6 applicants on February 12.
- Markeson reported that the Parks & Trails Commission met recently and waiting for a Parks & Recreation Director to be hired prior to making any decisions regarding a skateboard park. He stated that Shared Visions (joint meeting with Bemidji Leads and Race Relations) met today at City Hall and he was glad that the resolution of support was passed by the Council. They are trying to do a study on race relations for the Greater Bemidji area. Met with Chamber of Commerce regarding Bemidji Day at the Capitol on March 25.
- Johnson reported that he will be attending a Board meeting of the Coalition of Greater Mn Cities next week. The Coalition will be discussing Local Government Aid and changes made in the formula.
- Erickson recently attended an Airport Commission meeting and a fourth flight will be added to Bemidji in April by Mesaba. In addition, there may be jet service from Pinnacle. The final cost of the new runway at the Airport exceeded \$9 million. She reported that her ward has a problem with graffiti on private property and she would like this addressed in the future. She attended a Bemidji Green Up meeting and stated that they are working on a tree giveaway at City Hall the week of April 20-25.
- City Manager Chattin reported that the deadline for applications for the position of Parks & Recreation Director was Friday, January 18 and the City received fifteen applications. He recently met with Dale Everson, Capital Growth Madison Marquette,

who has the majority interest in Pinnacle Outlet and staff believes that the project now has some “legs”. He stated that the Mayor has meetings on February 15 and 16 that he is unable to attend and asked Councilors if they could attend in his place. Chattin asked that Councilors contact him if they wished to attend the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce 2008 Session Priorities Legislative reception and dinner on February 12 in St. Paul.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Hellquist, second by Markeson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay M. Murphy
City Clerk