

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – February 21, 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 Wednesday, February 21, 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:

- Two gambling permits for Rocky Mtn Elk Foundation event raffles on 3/30 and 3/31
- Travel for Mayor or Councilmember regarding a Sales Tax Hearing in St. Paul on March 2
- Chat-A-Bout topic for March 5
- Fiber Optic proposal for City Hall and Fire Hall from the County

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

MINUTES

Minutes of the February 5, 2007 regular meeting was presented for approval. Motion by Erickson, 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 Meuers, second by Downs, to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:

1. Approved Claims submitted by the Finance Officer in the total amount of \$638,830.20.
2. Approved Annual Permit/License Renewals for 2007.
3. Approved the following Gambling Permits:
 - Raffle – Ruffed Grouse Society on 4/5/07 @ Hampton Inn
 - Raffle – Rocky Mtn Elk Foundation on 3/30/07 @ Bemidji Armory
 - Raffle – Rocky Mtn Elk Foundation on 3/31/07 @ Bemidji Armory
4. Approved Temporary On-Sale Liquor License: Dragon Boat Festival – August 3-4, 2007 at Waterfront.
5. Approved Renewal of Consumption & Display Permit: Northcott Company d/b/a AmericInn Lodge & Suites.
6. Approved purchase of two unmarked vehicles for the Police Department.
7. Adopted **RESOLUTION NO. 5393** Accepting Feasibility Report and Calling for a Public Hearing – 2007 Nymore Street Improvement (4th Street from Pershing Avenue to Lake Avenue SE).
8. Approved Council Travel to St. Paul on March 2 – Mayor or Councilmember

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – Leslie Rith-Najarian, BYC representative, reported that she and another BYC member attended the Bemidji Day at the Capitol and found it to be a good opportunity. She reported that at the winter event the Commission made a profit of \$944 and will be using this for June 7 event and make a donation to the Boys & Girls Club. The Commission recently finished revising their by-laws and will be bringing this to the Council at their next meeting. She reported that the Commission will be starting a youth column in the Bemidji Pioneer next month.

PLANNING CASE

Mayor Lehmann reviewed Planning Case #2007-02 from the City of Bemidji requesting a Special Use Permit to develop City owned property situated on the north side of 5th Street NW, at 1351 5th St NW. The new City of Bemidji Public Works office building and storage buildings are proposed to be situated on this property, which is currently vacant. Public buildings are allowed with a Special Use Permit in this R-1 (Single-Family Residential, unsewered) District. Planning Commission recommended approval.

Motion by Downs, second by Hellquist, to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission to grant a Special Use Permit for the new Public Works building to be built at 1351 5th Street NW noting that the Five Findings of Fact have been met and with the condition that the City secure easements of the non-City owned land. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS**Cost Share of South Lake Bemidji Environmental Site Assessment**

Mayor Lehmann reviewed the request from DNR to share the cost of assessing the South Lake Bemidji lakebed to determine how, or if, the lakebed can be cleaned up. This step is critical in making determination of the extent of any pollution in the area. The DNR is proceeding with a contract with Service Engineering Group. They have requested that the City honor its verbal commitment to fund one-third of the \$56,103 cost. The money for this assessment is available in the carryover contingency funds.

Erickson stated she spoke with an individual at DNR who is in charge of this project regarding the assessment and was informed that this may be just a portion of the cost as the findings may require more partnering.

Motion by Erickson, second by Hellquist, that the City partner with the DNR on the South Lake Bemidji Environmental Site Assessment and commit \$18,701, or one-third of the actual cost of the project, whichever is lower. Motion carried unanimously.

Chat-A-Bout Topic

Mayor Lehmann agreed to be on Chat-A-Bout on March 5 to discuss the extension of the local sales tax.

Fiber Run - County

Chattin stated that part of the proposal with Beltrami County for MIS services was to connect City Hall and the Fire Hall to the LEC so we can have a seamless network with the County and allow for backups on the County's servers. He stated that the City's server is crashing at least once a day as there is not enough capacity. The cost for the project is as follows:

Fiber Run	\$10,105
Switching	\$8,900
Server	\$3,700
Pole Rental	\$13.60 (each)

Eischens stated that the City can fund the \$23,000 from the 2006 budget savings of \$154,000.

Motion by Hellquist, second by Meuers, authorizing the expenditure to extend fiber optics as proposed by Beltrami County. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE

Pursuant to published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input regarding a proposed Ordinance Amending the Council-Manager Charter Section 7.08 (Alterations in the Budget). Mayor Lehmann opened the Public Hearing at 7:21 p.m., hearing no comments the public hearing was closed.

AN ORDINANCE Amending the Council-Manager Charter Section 7.08 (Alterations in the Budget) was given a second reading.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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| • March 1 | 5:15 p.m. | Greater Bemidji Joint Planning Board |
| • March 5 | 7:00 p.m. | City Council Meeting |
| • March 12 | 5:30 p.m. | Work Session – Diamond Point Park |
| • March 19 | 7:00 p.m. | City Council Meeting |

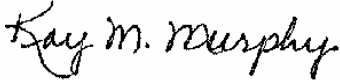
COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

- Chattin reported that the Bemidji Day at the Capitol was an extremely successful day. The Public Works Committee continues to work on an assessment policy for funding future projects. Continue meeting with DNR on trails specifically to determine a route going south of the City. Staff met with a couple of community representatives on establishing environmentally friendly policies as far as how the City operates. He attended Chief's Day Celebration at Red Lake and Chairman Buck Jourdain gave his first annual State of the Band Address. Continue working on the refuse operations with Brad's Sanitation. Chattin indicated that City is going to arbitration on a grievance by one of the police officers.
- Mayor Lehmann stated that the City received a thank you letter from the Parks & Trail Council for our contribution. He noted that the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Executive Committee passed a Resolution for the Return of the Minnesota Indian Scholarship Program to Bemidji.
- Meuers attended the Rural Firefighters meeting and noted that our fire station is the ninth busiest in the state. Meuers reported that Parks Commission met recently and discussed ideas for recognizing individuals that donate money for improvements to Diamond Point Park.
- Erickson attended a Neighborhood meeting held by the City Engineer regarding the extension of water and sewer to the east side of Lake Bemidji. The primary concern expressed by those in attendance was the cost of assessment; however, the feasibility study will be done. She recently attended a library board meeting by the invitation of Friends of the Library. There were 98 responses to the survey regarding the "Save our Library" proposal which were all positive. She stated that the City should seriously look at the proposal. Library Board has yet to weigh in.
- Hellquist stated he is impressed by the firefighters and their presentation. The Public Works Committee met regarding the assessment policy and discussed the extension of the water and sewer to the east side and will be meeting again.
- Johnson reported that the school district continues to meet regarding sharing resources for access and will bring this to the Public Affairs Committee meeting.
- Downs commented that the Chamber did a really good job organizing the Bemidji Day at the Capitol event. Downs stated he would like to see a Council retreat. Chattin stated that a retreat is being discussed for May or June which would give the Council an opportunity to set goals and objectives which will be tied to the budget.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Downs, second by Hellquist, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay M. Murphy
City Clerk