

City Council Proceedings

Regular Meeting/Work Session

October 10, 2005

Pursuant to due call and notice, a regular meeting/work session of the City Council of the City of Bemidji, Beltrami County, Minnesota, was held on Monday, October 10, 2005, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, Mayor Lehmann presiding.

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

Staff Present: Minke and Murphy-Schuett

Mayor Lehmann stated that the purpose of the meeting discuss communication needs and styles.

Minke stated that there was no topic for the November 14 work session and recommended that they discuss utility franchise fees with Jim Strommen, Kennedy & Graven, via telephone conference. Council concurred.

Minke stated that the quarterly update should be used to discuss what the Council thinks is important versus what he or Cliff Tweedale think is important. Minke stated that the Council should ask how we are doing based on values and perceptions and their understanding of the City's goals. Minke suggested the quarterly updates be refocused on Council driven and less manager, consultant or staff driven. This way it would become evident to staff what is important, what are the values, what are the priorities.

Mayor Lehmann stated that this is a good opportunity to discuss priorities and each councilperson has their own priorities.

Council discussed lobbying efforts on behalf of the event center. Consensus of the Council was that a community-based committee be formed to keep the momentum going. Discussion continued on ideas to better sell the event center much like what was developed for the parks & trails brochure. Downs suggested that lobbying effort should be developed with BSU and the Chamber. Johnson stated that he would discuss the lobbying effort at the event center meeting on October 12. Minke suggested that the Council identify who the partners for the event center are, and identify what resources can be brought to the table.

Meuers asked how the Council should communicate at the Council meetings, i.e., raise hand and wait to be acknowledged by the Mayor. Meuers commented that it would be nice to have a uniform way to talk.

Hellquist stated that the Council tends to talk over each other. He suggested that if the Council wanted a more formal setting, it needs to set it and adhere to it otherwise leave it as it is.

Council discussed communication styles at Council meetings and decided to implement raising hands at the next Council meeting. Downs suggested that the discussion should be limited to three minutes per exchange.

Johnson stated that communicating to the Council on how things are proceeding is important and would like periodic updates on what is happening. Lehmann asked if an update in the Friday newsletter would be adequate. Johnson responded that a few lines in the newsletter would be good.

Minke responded that updates should be provided, however, on some issues there is no short update. On some issues information changes daily and partial information could be misleading.

Lehmann stated that some people need a higher level of detail to make a decision.

Downs suggested that the update does not need to be specific but enough to let the Council know generally what is happening. The Councilperson that is interested then could call for more details.

Minke recently attended a meeting on communications and noted that “communication is the reaction you get.” It does not matter what you say but what the person heard.

Council Retreat

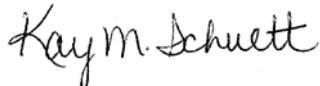
The next quarterly meeting will be the annual retreat in January or February. This will be an opportunity to review accomplishments and reevaluate priorities. Council would like an outside moderator to lead the group. Minke was directed to arrange a moderator and make arrangements.

Minke reviewed a value based model to use when making public decisions included liberty, community, prosperity and equality.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Meuers, second by Markeson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay Murphy-Schuett
City Clerk