

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA
Special Meeting/Work Session – January 24, 2011

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, January 24, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of City Hall, Mayor Larson presiding.

Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Larson, Waldhausen, Johnson, Hellquist, Albrecht, Negard, Thompson

Staff Present: City Manager John Chattin, City Attorney Alan Felix, City Clerk Kay Murphy

Mayor Larson stated that the purpose of the special work session was to consider accepting or declining the State Grant for the solar panel demonstration project at the Sanford Center.

Chattin stated that City staff was contacted by Phil Carlson, Boonestroo, late last week regarding deadlines set by the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security, for the State Grant tentatively awarded to the City for the solar panel demonstration project at the Sanford Center. Chattin stated that Carlson informed him that the City would need to purchase their solar panels by the end of January as the "Buy American Law" goes into effect on February 6 which would make the panels more expensive. He stated that accepting the grant commits the City to a \$160,200 match.

Thompson asked if utilizing the contingency funds for the solar panels would affect re-building of Nymore Park and the beach.

Chattin responded that it would. He further stated that the final change orders for the event center will come before the Council at the regular meeting on February 22. Then at the first work session in March staff will discuss with Council how to utilize the remaining contingency funds. He stated that the clean-up of Nymore beach and bathhouse is estimated to be \$1 million.

Erika Bailey-Johnson, Sustainability Committee member, stated that she has not found any other funding sources. She commented that she understood the importance of the Nymore Beach project as well.

Discussion continued regarding the possibility of a future grant round. Albrecht commented that the grant was through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and most likely not available again.

Motion by Hellquist, seconded by Negard, to decline the Minnesota State Grant for the Solar Panel Demonstration Project. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Hellquist, seconded by Thompson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay M. Murphy
City Clerk