

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting/Work Session – October 13, 2008

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 13, 2008, at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of City Hall, Mayor Lehmann presiding.

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

Staff Present: City Manager John Chattin, City Attorney Alan Felix, Community Development Director Rita Albrecht, City Clerk Kay Murphy

Others Present: Paul Richards, WSN; Mel Melinder, GBJPB

Motion Meuers, seconded by Johnson, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

South Shore Development - Planned Unit Development

Paul Richards, WSN, reviewed the proposed south shore development. He noted that the vision statement states that it will be a rich and exciting district with activities for community members, regional neighbors and visitors from all over the world. He listed the project goals which include a livable - walk-able community, vibrant social and economic district, public park, strong connections, sustainable solutions and environmental stewardship. He stated that the planned unit development will be considered at a November Joint Planning Board meeting.

Council discussed the following:

- It appears that the event center and parking lot is greater than 24 acres.
- Parking is attached to the event center to accommodate large event.
- Existing Nymore Beach – maintain until another beach is developed; Chattin stated that the development of a new beach will be presented to the Parks & Trails Commission and see what assets they want to dedicate toward its development.
- Boat launch – will be improved by the DNR.
- Project site improvements - \$4,513,000. Housing development would be the developer's cost. The project improvement cost includes major streets, parking and utilities. The cost does not include tree planting, park improvements, trail improvements.
- Construction documents will include the parking lot as designed. Some parking will happen off site for major events.
- Erickson asked if the cleanup of the proposed beach area has been considered by the DNR. Albrecht responded that in the Phase I and Phase II Lakebed studies, DNR is satisfied that the materials in the lake, should they be dredged or removed, does not pose a problem. The DNR is satisfied with the cleanup. Albrecht stated that the City will be looking for money to assist with the cleanup of the lakebed and upland by Lake Bemidji.
- Johnson suggested charging for event parking as a possible revenue stream.
- Staff noted that the south shore development will create approximately 150-220 jobs (full-time and part-time).
- Downs stated he was not opposed to moving the "water park" lakeside and moving the trail. This could result in a higher sale price.
- DNR will purchase the trail through the site. The City has not received an offer from the DNR to date. DNR and City will negotiate trail maintenance.
- Boardwalks and observation platforms will be built and maintained by DNR.

Short Term Priorities

Chattin asked the City Council to rank the short-term priorities identified by the Council and staff from their retreat. The goals are as follows:

- Maximize PEG Channel Use – Chattin stated that this will happen regardless of its rank.
- Assess best use of City vacant property – Chattin stated that the Council will discuss this at a work session. A map has been developed by the GIS Coordinator showing the City's vacant property.
- Extend Sewer around Lake Bemidji.

- New Fire Substation – Working on a short-term lease from Magnuson to serve the east side of Bemidji.
- Help bring the Science Center to reality.
- Complete TH197 Trail Bridge.
- Comprehensive Strategy – maintenance of existing infrastructure – ensure the city's streets and water area maintained.
- Affordable and Homeless Housing and Develop Rako Street
- Follow through on Downtown Redevelopment – Continue with RDG and struggle where to start with it and where funding is available.
- Annexation – analyze and prepare.

Chattin stated that he will compile the Council's priorities and staff will use it for budgeting process.

Downs asked when the RDG Downtown Marketing Study will be complete. Albrecht stated that a power point presentation will be on their website within the next week and available from the city's website via a link. On November 24, RDG will be making a presentation to the public. The final report should be available by the end of December.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Downs, seconded by Markeson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Kay M. Murphy
City Clerk