

City Council Proceedings

Regular Work Session

July 25, 2005

Pursuant to due call and notice, a regular work session of the City Council of the City of Bemidji, Beltrami County, Minnesota, was held on Monday, July 25, 2005, at 5:30 p.m. Mayor Pro-tem Downs presiding.

The following Councilmembers were present: Meuers, Erickson, Johnson, Downs, Hellquist, Markeson. Absent: Lehmann

City Staff present: David Minke, Ron Eischens, Andy Mack, Curt Oakes, Brian Freeberg and Kay Murphy-Schuett.

City Council and staff toured the following areas and City facilities:

- Ward 5 Capital Improvement Program – Freeberg provided an overview of the need for road improvements in the Nymore area. A number of the streets are deteriorating or require pavement. Freeberg provided an overview on the possible extension of water and sewer to East Avenue.
- Nymore Beach – The driving and parking area of this park is in need of repair. This park is included for funding in the 2001 Park Plan (\$200,000) as part of the overall development package for the South Shore Development area.
- Public Works Garage – The building needs to be replaced. Staff will have a proposal to present to the Public Works Committee by the end of the year.
- Wastewater Treatment Facility – WWTF Supt. Tim Whiting provided an overview of the WWTF. Although 20 years old, the plant continues to operate well. Recommended improvements are contained in a comprehensive study completed by S.E.H. Engineering. One of the clarifiers is presently down for repairs, which the group toured.
- Carnegie Building – The City owns the building and “leases” it to the Community Arts Council at no cost. The building is falling into disrepair and does not have a preventative maintenance program. Other buildings the City owns include the Travel Information Center, Public Library and Depot.
- Ward 1 Capital Improvement Program – Freeberg provided an update of the progress on the project.
- Diamond Point Park – Minke stated that this park was identified as the top priority by the park plan. There is \$1.65 million identified in the 2001 park plan for a complete renovation of the park. He suggested a plan be identified this winter with work to begin in the spring of 2006. Joint Park Commission/Council meeting on August 22.
- Birchmont Drive Water and Sewer Extension – Freeberg reviewed the proposed water and sewer extension along Birchmont Drive to the DNR landing. Public hearing scheduled on August 15.
- Well Field – The City operates five wells with a total daily capacity of 3.5 million gallons. All wells are located at the airport. There is funding in the CIP to allow for a study to find a new well at a different location. Adding one or more wells at another location adds redundancy should there be a problem with the existing well field, but it also increases the cost as there must a separate treatment plant.
- Beltrami Electric Building – The City is exploring the possibility of adding administrative offices to the proposed public works facility. Beltrami Electric is a style that has both maintenance facilities and administrative offices. A City facility would be approximately 80 percent of the size of the Beltrami Electric building.

At 7:30 p.m., the group returned to the City Hall Conference Room and was joined by Mayor Richard Lehmann and Public Safety Director Bruce Preece.

Preece gave an update of the fire and police departments. He reviewed a number of grants received by both departments. Key issues for fire department are an aging fleet and personnel shortage. Discussion followed on the need for a second fire station to serve the south/southeast side of Bemidji. Key issue for the police department is personnel shortage.

ADJOURN

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Murphy-Schuett
Deputy City Clerk