

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – August 20, 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 Monday, August 20, 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. There being none, there was a motion by Meuers, second by Hellquist, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

MINUTES

Minutes of the August 6, 2007 regular meeting and August 13, 2007 work session were presented for approval. Motion by Downs, second by Johnson, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval. Motion by Downs, second by Meuers, to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:

1. Approved Claims submitted by the Finance Officer in the total amount of \$495,175.55.
2. Approved miscellaneous business licenses.
3. Approve Letter of Support for BC/BS Grant (L. Kramka)
4. Approve Budget Changes #13 and #14.
5. Approve appointment to Parks & Recreation Commission – Ryan Baer

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission

Kathy Dekrey, Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission, reported that the Commission had their Youth Retreat and discussed the Commission's future.

PRESENTATIONS

Char Blashill made a presentation regarding the Oktoberfest being planned by the Bemidji Jaycees, which is scheduled for October 5 and 6, 2007. She stated that the Jaycees are requesting permission for this possible annual event to be held the first weekend of October each year. The Jaycees have spoken with most of the downtown businesses that will be affected by the closure of streets and all, but one that they have talked to, are interested. The one business feels that the sale of beer at the festival will affect the sale of beer at her establishment. The Jaycees will continue to work with that business owner.

Meuers asked about the additional law enforcement for the event. Ms. Blashill stated that she has visited with Police Captain Russell and there will be four additional foot patrolman in the evening and two during the day.

Mayor Lehmann commented that he would like to see more refuse cans to keep the area neat.

Ms. Blashill stated that they are not promoting the event as a beer festival and that they are promoting activities for children. They are also planning something like the City-wide Crazy Days with the businesses in town, but those details have not been worked out yet.

RESOLUTION NO. 5426: Approving the Site for Oktoberfest was offered by Councilmember Meuers, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Markeson was passed by unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS

The Chat-A-Bout Topic for September will be the City of Bemidji deer hunt. Erickson will contact Officer Herr to ensure that he would be able to be on Chat-A-Bout with her.

EVENTS CENTER UPDATE

Dave Hengel, HRDC, gave an update on the Event Center. He stated that next Monday, August 27 is a key date and reviewed an outline of the meetings and events scheduled for the day. He stressed how great an opportunity it is to be able to bring in Brian Schoenborn regarding his expertise in helping design and build other facilities such as this. Hengel also reviewed the work that has been done to date regarding the Event Center.

Mayor Lehmann stated that he appreciates the e-mail updates that he receives from Hengel, but feels that there is a need to start doing more public pieces to inform the community of what has happened and what is being planned regarding the Event Center project. He feels that this may raise some questions and concerns from the public, but the group needs to be able to address all public concerns.

Erickson asked which meetings would be open to the community on Monday. Hengel replied that the 8:00 a.m., noon and evening work session would all be open to the community, but the 10:00 a.m. meeting with City staff is a precursor for the work session.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT – Paul Ericsson

Librarian Paul Ericsson stated that there are two upcoming dates to keep in mind with regard to library events. One is on Thursday, September 13 at 7:00 p.m. There will be an open community forum with the Kitchigami region. It is an opportunity for users and non-users to comment on the Library and their wishes with regard to the Library. October 20 the Library will be celebrating their 100th anniversary and there will likely be a morning celebration, but details are still being worked out. Ericsson stated that the promoting of the children's summer reading program has paid off and that the numbers of children participating almost doubled from last summer. The minutes of summertime reading by these children has also doubled. Surprisingly, the teen audience had the biggest percentage increase.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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| • Monday, August 27 | 5:15 p.m. | Work Session – Leo A. Daly (Event Ctr) |
| • Tuesday, Sept. 4 | 7:00 p.m. | Council Meeting |
| • Monday, Sept. 10 | 5:30 p.m. | Work Session – WAC/SAC |
| • Monday, Sept. 17 | 7:00 p.m. | Council Meeting |
| • Monday, Sept. 24 | 5:15 p.m. | Work Session |

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

- Chattin stated that he attended the Airport Commission meeting the previous week and that with the runway construction; the runway will be closed for about a week, the week of September 5-12. He also stated that budget meetings with the department heads continue and should be mostly finished by the end of the week. Chattin is planning to attend the Joint Planning Board meeting this week as there will be discussion of the job descriptions for potential employees and the possible locations of their future offices.
- Downs stated that he had a nice visit with Oberstar regarding the sewer line going around Lake Bemidji. Craig Gray is also working on this issue as there will need to be an engineering study done before anything else can be done.
- Meuers reminded everyone of the National Guard Homecoming Celebration scheduled for Saturday, August 25 at 2:00 p.m. at BSU Memorial Hall. The Troops will be leaving the Armory at 1:30 p.m. and the Celebration Committee is asking the community to line the route to show their support.
- Eischens stated that he is anxious to get through budget meetings and is asking for a special work session. Chattin suggested doing it on the regular work session of September 10 or wait until later in that week if it looks like there will be a Special

Session, but from discussions in St. Paul, the likelihood for a Special Session is dwindling.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Downs, second by Markeson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn M. Swenson
Deputy City Clerk