

City of Bemidji
City Council Work Session
May 10 - 5:30 p.m.

Present: Lehmann, Zachman, Hellquist, Johnson, Erickson, Meuers, Downs
Absent: None
Staff: Minke, Sherman, Felix, Eischens

Lehmann called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Update by Attorney Julie Fleming-Wolfe

Motion by Meuers, second by Johnson, to close the meeting under the authority in Minnesota Statute 13D.05, Subd. 3(b) for the purpose of discussing current litigation in the case of Rabe versus the City of Bemidji. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Attorney Julie Fleming-Wolfe provided an update on the Rabe versus City of Bemidji litigation.

The meeting was reopened to the public.

Review Council Per Diem Policy

This issue was presented for discussion due to several inquiries from Councilmembers reflecting a lack of understanding on what constitutes a meeting or event for which a council representative is paid per diem. Considerable discussion followed regarding the demands on time, the need to re-evaluate committee assignments, what constitutes whether a meeting or event qualifies for per diem, how requests for council representation should be made, and whether there are some events council members should refrain from attending. Each member's per diem varies depending upon the workload (committee assignments, lobbying, etc.), how active the committee is, and whether out-of-town travel is involved. It was noted that Council salaries and per diem rates have not increased for 19 years and the possibility of raising salaries and per diem rates was suggested. Zachman felt the Council salaries and per diems should reflect the economic state of the city. Council agreed to leave the rates as they are now.

Review City Manager Evaluation Process

Councilmembers discussed the current City Manager Evaluation Process and agreed that the evaluation process should be redesigned. Councilmember Hellquist volunteered to draft a new format for Council review. Annually the Mayor will distribute the evaluation sheet to each Councilmember to be used as a worksheet in preparation for a meeting to discuss the City Manager's performance. The seven council members would then provide input and reach a consensus.

Adjourn

Motion by Downs, second by Hellquist, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Sherman, City Clerk