

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

November 21, 2005

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, November 21, 2005, 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, Downs, Meuers. Absent: Erickson.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Lehmann called for any amendments to the agenda. The following changes were requested:

- Add 12b. Senior Citizen Deferral of Special Assessment to consent agenda
- Markeson requested that Item 7 (Policy on Public Improvements) be removed from Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Motion by Downs, second by Johnson, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

MINUTES

Minutes of the November 7 regular meeting and November 14, 2005 work session were presented for approval. Motion by Hellquist, second by Markeson, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Approved Claims submitted by the Finance Officer in the total amount of \$1,409,223.05.
2. Approved miscellaneous 2005 business licenses.
3. Approved miscellaneous 2006 business license renewals.
4. Approved **RESOLUTION NO. 5279** adopting Assessment Roll for Delinquent Utility Accounts reflecting Costs for Services Provided During the Year 2005.
5. Approved **RESOLUTION NO. 5280** adopting Assessment Roll for Water/Sewer Connection Fees (connections completed in 2005).
6. Approved **RESOLUTION NO. 5281** accepting a donation (Kurt Long Voelkner – Citizen's Patrol).
7. Approved **RESOLUTION NO. 5282** condemning structures at 2700 Delton Ave NW.
8. Approved purchased of a 2006 one-ton truck in the amount of \$36,896.30 – Parks & Recreation Department.
9. Approved purchase of a 2006 street sweeper in the amount of \$133,724.59 – Street Department.
10. Approved **RESOLUTION NO. 5283** Authorizing City Manager to Designate and Establish Overnight Parking Restrictions on Beltrami, Minnesota and America Courts.
11. Approved a Senior Citizen deferral of a Special Assessment at 1302 Bemidji Avenue.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Student Senate Reports

Tessa Hoganson, BSU Student Senate, reported that a committee is interviewing vendors for dining services at BSU and the cost of tuition for 2007 is increasing 8.7%. She also reported that the Student Senate recently met with Public Works Committee and discussed parking issues relating to rental properties. Several ideas came from this meeting including educating first time students and doing a survey of rental landlords. Lehmann suggested that NTC be included in the discussion regarding rentals.

PUBLIC HEARING**Miscellaneous Assessments Work Done During 2005:**

Pursuant to mailed and published notice, a copy of which was placed on file in the City Clerk's Office, a public hearing was held to consider and adopt the proposed miscellaneous assessment for work done during 2005. Mayor Lehmann opened the Public Hearing, hearing no comments the public hearing was closed.

RESOLUTION NO. 5284: Adopting the Roll for Unpaid Assessment for Miscellaneous Work Done by the City on Private Property in 2005 was offered by Councilmember Downs, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Markeson was passed by unanimous vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS**Event Center Marketing Funding:**

Meuers stated that the Event Center Committee has put together a marketing plan and is asking for a commitment of \$20,000 from the City. The County has committed \$10,000, BSU \$5,000, HRDC \$2,500 and Chamber \$2,500. These funds will be used primarily to pay for lobbying in St. Paul.

Johnson stated that it is important that the rest of the entities are involved and willing to share the cost.

Lehmann asked if there was any suggestion as to where the funds will come from. Eischens recommended that there should be sufficient funds in the liquor funds.

Motion by Downs, second by Meuers, to support and fund the Event Center Marketing request for \$20,000 with liquor store funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Policy on Public Improvements

Markeson stated he received a call from a constituent regarding the payment of interest on special assessments. Felix stated that the requirement to pay interest comes from State statute.

RESOLUTION NO. 5285: Amending the City's Policy on Public Improvements was offered by Councilmember Markeson, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Meuers was passed by unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS**Request for Waiver of the JOBZ Requirement – North Central Door:**

Lehmann commented that the Council toured North Central Door on November 13 and he was impressed with the quality of the product and the fact that much of the product is made by the employees. He stated that, as a Council, North Central Door is a business we want to keep in Bemidji.

Larry Young, Director of the Joint Economic Development Corporation, stated that in that capacity he works with the JOBZ program through the Department of Employment and Economic Security. He stated that he has been working with North Central Door for over a year as they look to relocate their business into the Industrial Park. Initially, it appeared that North Central Door would qualify for the program very easily because of the \$7 million investment in a new facility. After the 2005 Legislation session there were a number of changes in the program that does necessitate North Central Door seeking a waiver. The waiver is not granted by the City Council but instead it is a waiver that goes to the State. However, in talking with State officials they would look for a letter of support from the City as a part of the waiver.

Steve Halley, North Central Door, stated that this company has been a part of the community since 1967. The company manufactures and distributes overhead garage doors in the upper Midwest area. They are reaching a point in the current facility where they can no longer operate efficiently. He stated they would like to expand and have purchased land in the Industrial Park. Mr. Halley stated that they would appreciate the Council's support in the form of a letter to the State.

Young commented that this company has 65 full-time employees and the problem they ran into with the JOBZ program is that under the new regulations approved North Central Door has to show a 20% increase in employment within the first year of operation once they are in the new facility. Previous to that the program required a 10% increase in employment or a minimum dollar investment. With the new 20% increase in employment, they do not feel because of the investment they are making and technology that they would not be able to add 12 new jobs in the first year. As a result, it means they have to go for a waiver. They do feel that they can meet the job requirement by the end of year three and hopefully double that in the next five to ten years. He stated that North Central Door feels that the investment they are in making technology will make them much more competitive in the long term. Young stated that a letter of support going to State from the City Council is very important in convincing State officials that this is a good company.

Lehmann asked if North Central Door met all of the other criteria.

Young responded yes but the one requirement that North Central Door cannot meet is the 20% job generation.

Lehmann asked if there was any chance that some of the part-time employees would move into full-time positions.

Halley responded that in three years but they do not feel they can do this in the first year.

Downs commented that this is the type of business that exemplifies what the City is looking for the Industrial Park and the City cannot afford to lose this type of business to another community.

Johnson commented that it might be a good idea to get letters of support from HRDC or BSU.

Young foresees a packet of letters going to the State.

Motion by Hellquist, second by Markeson, that the City write a letter of support for a waiver from one to three years for the 20% job creation factor for the JOBZ program application for North Central Door. Motion carried unanimously.

Chat-A-Bout Topic for December 5:

Mayor suggested that Johnson and Minke discuss the transportation issue and amendment that will be on the ballot next year.

ORDINANCES

1. Pursuant to published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input regarding an Ordinance amending Chapter 16, entitled "Sales and Use Tax". Mayor Lehmann opened the Public Hearing at 7:32 p.m., hearing no comments the public hearing was closed.

AN ORDINANCE amending Chapter 16, entitled "Sales and Use Tax" was given a second reading.

2. Pursuant to published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input regarding an Ordinance amending Fee Schedule for 2005. Mayor Lehmann opened the Public Hearing at 7:33 p.m., hearing no comments the public hearing was closed.

AN ORDINANCE amending Fee Schedule for 2005 was given a second reading.

AN ORDINANCE amending Section 14.17 of the Bemidji City Code (Pertaining to Lodging Tax) was given a first reading.

CITIZEN NOT ON AGENDA

Adam Steele, 189 Gemmel Avenue, stated he was before the Council with a matter involving the question of propriety and enforcement. He stated that Ordinance 10.33, Section 4.30 Subd. 14(d) and Section 13.24(1)(d and 3) should be repealed or revised. He stated that these ordinances are not reasonable. The ordinances make it unlawful for a person to have a scrap pile in one's yard which is a common item. In addition, Mr. Steele stated that the ordinances are not being uniformly enforced throughout Bemidji. Mr. Steele

handed out pictures that he had brought to Assistant City Attorney Brand last summer and commented that to his knowledge nothing had been done. Consequently, Steele would like the Council to consider modifying or repealing the ordinances cited.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Public Affairs Committee – November 28 at 5:15 p.m. to discuss Council Retreat

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

Markeson reported he met with the Mayor and the Bemidji Youth Advisory recently and discussed their role with the City Council.

Johnson reported that the Event Center Committee will meet on Tuesday, November 22 to review the conceptual design of the event center.

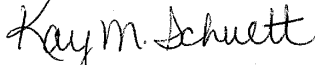
Meuers reported that the Public Affairs Committee has reviewed applications for committee assignments. She noted that there is a need for volunteers to serve on the Communications Subcommittee, Merit Hearing Board or Housing Appeals Board. Meuers reported that the Library will be experiencing a huge budget cut. The hours of operation will be reduced from 46 to 32 hours, 2 fulltime and 1 part-time employees will be cut, eliminating money for new books and periodicals, cutting branch programming and no reading program in the summer.

Lehmann commented that the City hosted Russian visitors last week and gave tours of City facilities. Lehmann reported that the Governor and the Speaker of the House will be in Bemidji on January 6 and the City will be putting together a packet of information regarding bonding issues. Lehmann stated that on November 24 the “Night We Light” event would be taking place which includes a parade, lighting the trees and fireworks.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Meuers, second by Downs, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay Murphy-Schuett
City Clerk