

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – January 7, 2008

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, January 7, 2008 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, Johnson, Erickson, Downs, Meuers, Markeson, Hellquist.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Lehmann called for any amendments to the agenda. Motion by Downs, second by Johnson, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

MINUTES

Minutes of the December 17 regular meeting and December 10, 2007 work session were presented for approval. Motion by Erickson, second by Hellquist, to approve the minutes as corrected. 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 \$587,875.87.
2. Approved miscellaneous business licenses for 2008.
3. Approved 1 Day Temporary Consumption & Display Permit – Chamber.
4. Approved Designation of Mayor Pro-tem.
5. Approved Commission/Committee Appointments/Reappointments for 2008.
6. Designated Official Newspaper of Publication for City.
7. Award Bid for Lift Station Control Panel Replacements – Quality Flow Systems (\$58,104).
8. **RESOLUTION NO. 5459:** Accepting Responsibility as the Sponsoring Agent (Midway Drive Bridge Rehabilitation).
9. Approved Purchase of Refuse Containers from MacQueen Equipment (\$19,081).
10. **RESOLUTION NO. 5460:** Entering into an Agreement with Northern Engineering & Consulting, Inc. (City Project #08-11 – Industrial Park Expansion).

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – Stephen Bucher, BYA representative, reported that the Commission is working on an event on January 18 at the Boys & Girls Club. The Commission will be having a Listening Lunch regarding suicide prevention on January 10. The Commission representative on the Capital For A Day Committee is Jordan Marshall.

PRESENTATION

Joe Aitken, representing the Bemidji Area Race Relations Council, extended an invitation to the Council and residents to join in on a Freedom Walk in Bemidji on February 4 which starts at 5 p.m. and concludes at 7:30 p.m. He stated that the Freedom Walk is very important and sends an important message.

PUBLIC HEARING

Nymore Street Improvements

Mayor Lehmann stated that as a Council they try to make improvements to the community, i.e., paving streets. However, it is apparent that the residents via petition are not in favor of the project. The City received petitions in opposition of the project as follow:

		<u>Percent of Signatures</u>
Wilson Avenue	3 rd Street – 4 th Street	83%
Kay Avenue	2 nd Street – 3 rd Street	50%
Gould Avenue	2 nd Street – 5 th Street	100%
Richards Avenue	1 st Street – 5 th Street	71%
Stoner Avenue	4 th Street – 5 th Street	67%
5 th Street	Gould Avenue – Lake Ave.	100%
Miles Avenue	4 th Street – Roosevelt	88%

Erickson stated that Ward 5 has always looked neglected and she had therefore requested that the unpaved streets be considered for paving. There are 81 miles of streets within the city and 5½ miles are not paved. There are 2½ miles are located within Ward 5. She stated that it is a matter of community pride that we have paved streets in our city. She stated that she is disappointed that the residents do not want their streets paved as it is costly to maintain dirt streets. She stated that a new motor grader costs approximately \$225,000 and the City owns two. If the unpaved streets were paved, according to the Public Works Director, a less expensive truck could do the snowplowing. She stated that she will support the petitioners, however, she was disappointed.

Pursuant to published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input regarding Nymore Street Improvements (City Project #08-03). Mayor Lehmann opened the Public Hearing at 7:20 p.m.

George Edwards, 1704 Stoner Avenue SE, stated he has 600 feet on 5th Street and 200 feet on Stoner and his assessment will be \$14,000 and cannot afford the assessment.

Sean McCroy, 917 4th Street SE, asked about the equipment needed for plowing alleys.

Erickson stated that the City has two graders and if streets were paved may need only one.

Mr. McCroy asked why Grant Avenue was not included in the streets proposed for paving. Mayor Lehmann replied that Grant Avenue will be done as part of the development of SE Lake Bemidji.

Deborah Nelson, 1526 5th Street SE, stated that she has wondered why the streets were not paved in Nymore already. She would love to say yes to the paving, however, with the annexation of their property a few years ago and a current assessment of \$13,000 another assessment would be too much for some residents. She suggested that the Council give the residents a few years to get caught up as there are a lot of people that simply cannot afford it now.

John Casper, 1601 3rd Street, owns 200 feet and his assessment would be approximately \$8,000. He stated that he is not 100% opposed to the project and suggested that perhaps it would be better to break it down street by street.

Scott LaCoursiere, 512 Kay Avenue SE and owner of Bemidji Ambulance, stated that there are areas in the city that are not paved and it is uncomfortable for patients that they transport. He stated that it is inevitable that these streets will be paved and perhaps there is some way to make this happen.

Public Hearing closed at 7:20 p.m.

Motion by Erickson, second by Hellquist, to cancel Project No. 08-03 (paving of streets located in Nymore). Motion carried by unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Parks & Trails Council of Mn

Lehmann stated that the Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota provides a valuable resource for our community. Downs stated that it is valuable and compared it to the contribution made by the City to the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities.

Erickson suggested that if this is an annual contribution, it should be written into the budget.

Chattin stated that from a staff perspective he would like to know if this is an annual item so it could be included in the budget. Discussion continued regarding the amount of the contribution and the type of service provided by the Trails Council.

Motion by Downs, second by Markeson, to contribute \$2,500 annually to the Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota. Motion failed with the following vote: Ayes: Downs, Johnson, Markeson. Nays: Meuers, Erickson, Lehmann, Hellquist.

Motion by Downs, second by Johnson, to contribute \$1,750 annually to the Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota. Motion failed with the following vote: Ayes: Downs, Johnson, Markeson. Nays: Meuers, Erickson, Lehmann, Hellquist.

Motion by Meuers, second by Markeson to contribute \$1,500 annually to the Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota. Motion carried with the following vote: Ayes: Meuers, Johnson, Downs, Hellquist, Markeson, Lehmann. Nays: Erickson.

Birchmont Drive NE Project

City Engineer Craig Gray reviewed Project No. 05-05 stating that the plans and specifications have been completed by Freeberg & Grund and the project is now ready to advertise for bids. He stated that this is a joint project with Beltrami County and Northern Township and the City has been designated as the responsible agency for contracting for all consultant and construction services necessary for the project.

RESOLUTION NO. 5461: Ordering Improvement, Designating Project Engineer, Calling for Preparation of Plans and Specifications, and Authorizing Advertisement for Bids on Improvement (City Project No. 05-05) was offered by Councilmember Markeson, second by Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

City Manager Review

Mayor Lehmann stated that City Council has reviewed City Manager Chattin's job performance and overall it was favorable with minor problems noted. Mayor Lehmann has visited with Mr. Chattin regarding his review.

ORDINANCE

An Ordinance Amending an Uncoded Section of the Bemidji City Code (Authorizing the Conveyance of Real Property – Heathman) was given a first reading.

LIBRARIAN REPORT

Paul Ericcson, Bemidji Librarian, reviewed highlights at the Library. The Library provides an integrated system which includes a variety of services available and a host of information on the internet. The library catalog is structured as a regional system and supported by a good delivery system.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Thursday, January 10 5:30 p.m. Special Work Session – Bill Krueger (CSL)
- Monday, January 14 5:30 p.m. Work Session – Heritage Preservation Commission
- Tuesday, January 22 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting
- Monday, January 28 5:30 p.m. Work Session – Leo A Daly (Events Center) & Prevailing Wage

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

- Chattin stated he will be meeting with wastewater treatment plant staff to answer questions, the Fire Department long range planning committee, and will meet on Tuesday, January 15 with Northwest Technical College representatives regarding a fire sub-station.
- Mayor Lehmann reported that the Joint Planning Board will meet on Wednesday, January 9 at 5:15 p.m.
- Meuers reported that the Parks & Trails Commission meets at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 8.
- Downs commended City Manager Chattin and Cliff Tweedale for their efforts on the Events Center.

- Erickson reported that the bow hunt has concluded in Ward 5 and 18 deer were harvested. She stated that she does not receive the complaints that she had previously received and believed that the feeding ban has helped. Erickson stated that there is a terrible graffiti problem in her ward and has asked staff to address it. The Nymore Warming House is beautiful and thanked the Council for their support in that effort.
- Hellquist stated that there will be a DDA meeting on Wednesday morning.
- Markeson reported that the Heritage Preservation Commission will meet on Tuesday, January 9 at 1:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Downs, second by Meuers, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay M. Murphy
City Clerk