

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA
Special Meeting/Work Session – May 5, 2009

Pursuant to due call and notice, a special meeting/work session of the City Council of the City of Bemidji, Beltrami County, Minnesota, was held on Tuesday, May 5, 2009, at 5:50 p.m. in the Conference Room of City Hall, Mayor Lehmann presiding.

Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Johnson, Downs, Lehmann, Hellquist, Meuers, Negard Absent: Waldhausen

Staff Present: City Manager John Chattin, City Clerk Kay Murphy

Mayor Lehmann stated that the purpose of the work session was to discuss goals for the City Manager.

Hellquist stated he would like to see a permanent solution for the Tyler Estates homeowners. Chattin stated that staff is currently trying to do everything possible to find help for the homeowners. However, he stated, this was not an attainable goal.

Hellquist requested that in the next three months that the Council be appraised of the funding for the BREC, airport taxation and the Neilson-Reise Arena.

Chattin responded that he has provided a spreadsheet which shows the funding sources and construction costs. He will provide an update for the Council.

Negard stated that he would like to see the City recruit new businesses to Bemidji and suggested that the Community Development Director was the person for that job. Chattin responded that the Community Development Director's job was to facilitate the process of new businesses coming into Bemidji.

The following is a list of goals presented by Chattin:

1. Work with County Attorney Faver, Chief Johnson and City Attorney Felix to ensure that the City's diversionary program (administrative fines) is implemented as soon as possible but no later than October 1, 2009.
2. Reduce 2009 and 2010 budgets by \$1 million. Recommendations have been made to the Council. Timing for completion will be driven by policy decisions made by the Council. Implement reductions as they are approved.
3. Secure a facilities management firm for the BREC by August 1, 2009.
4. Complete reorganization of public works department by the end of 2010.
5. Formulate annexation recommendations by August 1, 2009. Chattin stated that the City Engineer is in the process of re-assessing the streets in the first annexation area.
6. Develop a marketing plan for BREC properties with final plan by September 1, 2009.
7. Negotiate one year contract extensions with unions reflecting no increase in pay or benefits by year end.
8. Establish Council committees. Ongoing until the Council resolves.

Council agreed with the goals set out by Chattin and added the following:

1. Continue to solicit funding for a study to extend the City sewer around Lake Bemidji.
2. Develop an ordinance to limit rental density in neighborhoods.
3. Provide an update of the BREC Operations & Maintenance costs. Chattin stated that as soon as a facilities manager was hired this goal could be accomplished. There needs to be a work session before July regarding funding a facilities manager.
4. Develop a street maintenance strategy and reconstruction plan.
5. Resolve the People's Church issue by enforcing the building code violations.
6. Review the operations and management of the city's liquor stores.
7. Review the operations and management of the fire department.
8. Accomplish the next step in the PEG process, i.e., electronic storage of meetings and scheduling of replay.
9. Meet a minimum of two times a year with individual Councilmembers.

ADJOURN

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay M. Murphy
City Clerk