

# **CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**

## **BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA**

### **January 4, 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 Tuesday, January 4, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, Mayor Lehmann presiding.

Upon roll call, the following Council members were declared present. Zachman, Johnson, Downs, Lehmann, Hellquist, Meuers. Erickson. Absent: None.

On behalf of the Bemidji City Council, Mayor Lehmann presented a plaque to Ralph Zachman in appreciation for 20 years of service on the Council.

#### **OATH OF OFFICE**

City Clerk Sherman administered the Oath of Office to newly elected official Onen Markeson (Councilmember Ward 1) and re-elected officials Richard Lehmann (Mayor), Ron Johnson (Councilmember Ward 3), Nancy Erickson (Councilmember Ward 5) and Barbara Meuers (Councilmember-at-Large).

#### **RESEATING OF THE COUNCIL**

Mayor Lehmann reseated the Council, Markeson was counted present, and the meeting continued.

#### **AGENDA**

Additions: Resolution authorizing application to the National Scenic Byways for funding to refurbish "Babe the Blue Ox" statue at the waterfront, and an application for gambling permit for St. Philips Church to the consent agenda. The Resolution was added to the regular agenda and the application was added to the Consent Agenda. Motion by Downs, second by Meuers to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Erickson, second by Meuers, to approve the following items on the consent agenda:

- 1) *Approved six (6) pages of claims submitted by the Finance Officer in the total amount of \$307,281.85.*
- 2) *Approved multiple annual licenses and permits.*
- 3) *Approved designation of Jerry Downs as President Pro-tem to serve in the absence of the mayor.*
- 4) *Approved designation of the Pioneer as the Official Newspaper of Publication*
- 5) *Approved Council travel expense for LMC Elected Officials Conference in Grand Rapids*
- 6) *Approved **Resolution No. 5202** Designating Depositories for City Funds in 2005*
- 7) *Approved Committee Appointments (as revised 1/4/05)*
- 8) *Approved a contract with American Cellular Corporation to locate an antenna on water tower*
- 9) *Approved a Contract with Beltrami County for Misdemeanor Prosecution*
- 10) *Approved **Resolution No.5203** appointing data practices responsible authority and data practices compliance official*
- 11) *Approved an application for Gambling Permit for St. Philips to hold a raffle on 2/5/05*

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission

No Report

Bemidji State University Student Senate

No Report

Oak Hills Student Senate

No Report

**TRAIL UPDATE**

City Attorney Felix provided an update, noting that the Council passed a resolution on December 20, accepting the Paul Bunyan State Trail Committee recommendation of split trail corridor alternative, authorizing a 2005 legislative bonding request to acquire and construct the Paul Bunyan State Trail connections in the City of Bemidji, and authorizing negotiations for acquisition and development of the split trail corridor. On December 21, DNR decided that they wanted to actually acquire the lake side, non-motorized segment of the split trail corridor in fee as opposed to simply acquiring an easement interest. The Council Resolution was finalized to reflect the DNR's acquisition preference, bringing the total bonding request to \$6.122 million for the acquisition and improvements of all trail connections within the city. Acquisition of the split-trail corridor alone is \$3.12 million. This information was communicated to Senator Ruud and Representative Moe, in a letter dated December 22, 2004.

Felix noted that this project is not currently on the state DNR legislative priority list for the 2005 legislative session, but it has regional DNR support as well as support from Ruud and Moe. He further noted that the City was very careful about defining the various components of the project to reflect that the highest priority is acquisition of the split-trail segment. That part of the trail is considered the most critical because the area is poised for redeveloped and the window of opportunity will close if the State doesn't take advantage at this time.

Downs expressed appreciation to the DNR for their support and for their efforts to move the project forward.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT TO JOINT PLANNING COMMISSION**

Lehmann noted that as the City expands in accordance with the Orderly Annexation Agreement, there will be a 12-member Joint Planning Commission that will evolve to deal with land use, planning and zoning. In accordance with the agreement, the city is authorized to recommend appointment of six members to the commission. Lehmann recommended appointment of:

- |                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| Nikki Lemmer   | Rita Albrecht |
| Dave Landgrebe | Greg Negard   |
| Bruce Slinkman | Dale Thompson |

Motion by Hellquist, second by Downs, to approve the list to be submitted to the Joint Planning Board. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**COUNCIL RETREAT DATE**

The date for the Council retreat was set for February 3, 2005. Location to be determined.

**RESOLUTION NO. 5204:** A RESOLUTION REQUESTING FUNDING FROM THE NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAYS TO REHABILITATE BABE THE BLUE OX was presented for consideration. Minke explained that the cost for restoring babe is estimated at \$80,000 - \$100,000. The project is eligible for federal funding through a Great River Road grant, which will require a local match. Deadline for the application is January 14<sup>th</sup>. The committee will fundraise for the project, and the City will be solicited for funding at that time.

The resolution was offered by Councilmember Erickson, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Markeson, was passed by unanimous vote.

**ORDINANCE**

AN ORDINANCE Amending the Zoning Map Adopted in Chapter 13, Section 13.08 of the Bemidji City Code (Pertaining to Planning Case #2004-32 – Norvold/Davidson Properties) was given a first reading.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Monday, January 17, 2005, Annual Freedom Walk in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

Monday, January 24, 2005, Commission appreciation night and recognition of Joe Vene for 17 years of service on the Planning Commission.

Monday, January 24, 2005, Meeting with Red Lake Tribal Chair

Council Photograph rescheduled to February 7, 2005.

Monday, January 31, 2005 – Joint Council & Planning Commission meeting to discuss Tree Preservation & Open Space Ordinance.

**COUNCIL/STAFF REPORTS**

The CGMC Legislative Day is January 12. Several Councilmembers expressed a desire to attend that meeting in St. Paul. Motion by Johnson, second by Hellquist to approve travel expenses for this purpose. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business presented for discussion, motion by Downs, second by Meuers, to adjourn the meeting. All voted aye. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Shirley J. Sherman, City Clerk