

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

September 19, 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, September 19, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, Mayor Pro-tem Downs presiding.

Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Hellquist, Meuers, Markeson, Johnson, Downs, Erickson. Absent: Lehmann.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Downs called for any amendments to the agenda. The following addition was requested by Councilmember Meuers:

Item #20 2006 Library Budget – Marian Ridge, Director of Kitchigami Regional Library (KRL)

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

MINUTES

Minutes of the September 6 regular meeting and September 1 and September 12, 2005 work session were presented for approval.

Councilmember Markeson noted that on the September 1 Special Work Session on page 2 he believed that John Puglesa commented that the subcommittee was "in favor of the downtown site". Downs asked that the City Clerk investigate this change.

The City Clerk made the following amendment to the September 1 minutes: "John Puglesa stated that the Location Subcommittee is interested and committed to both sites and wants to see vital development on the SE lake shore as well as something that would be an economic impact to the downtown in that corridor." (underline denotes language added)

Motion by Hellquist, second by Erickson, to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Approved Claims submitted by the Finance Officer in the total amount of \$558,282.85.
2. Approved a business license for MTM Video.
3. Approved RESOLUTION NO. 5253 approving an application for a gambling premises permit for the Bemidji Moose Lodge #1452.
4. Approved a gambling permit for Marine Corp League 585 (American Legion Post #14).
5. Approved RESOLUTION NO. 5254 accepting a petition and awarding a contract to Sparky's Construction in the amount of \$28,500 (City Project #05-15).
6. Approved Public Relations Committee name change to Communications Committee.
7. Authorized purchase of a new control panel for 1st Street Sewage Lift Station from Electric Pump in the amount of \$14,250.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission - Allison Cease reported that BYA recently completed elections of officers for 2005-06. Currently the group is discussing ideas for a Halloween Bash on October 28.

Public Affairs Committee – Barbara Meuers reported that the Committee met and discussed two issues: 1) screening applications to City boards and commissions and 2) developing a mission statement for the committee and defining the role of Public Affairs & Public Relations Committees.

Park & Recreation Commission – Barbara Meuers reported that the Parks & Recreation Commission did not have a quorum.

Communications Committee – Ron Johnson reported that the Public Relations Committee is now known as the Communications Committee, which better defines the role of this committee. Johnson stated that new equipment has been ordered which will allow inputting of the title of the topic being discussed at meetings. Also, exploring the purchase of a DVD recorder and player which would allow for saving on DVD instead of VHS and playback on a timer. In October a one page flyer will be included with the utility bills to city residents. The Committee has discussed increasing the size of the committee.

PLANNING CASES

Planning Case #2005-20 - Simonson Market/Arch Simonson, requesting a five foot side yard setback variance, ten feet is required. Planning Commission recommended approval with the condition that Mr. Simonson post one-way traffic signage.

Arch Simonson, Simonson Market, asked the Council to approve the request due to the following: 1) building the car wash closer to his neighbor, Floor to Ceiling Store, will allow them to hook up to city water; 2) the building will be precast and noncombustible; 3) revenue from an additional meter; and 4) safety concerns building it a distance of 22 feet between the existing building and the proposed car wash.

Downs asked if it was possible to add any green space. Simonson is planning to add some trees. Downs suggested that he work with Oakes in this regard.

Motion by Erickson, second by Markeson, to grant a five foot side yard variance at 1820 Paul Bunyan Drive NW due to safety concerns with the condition that Mr. Simonson post one-way traffic signage. Motion carried unanimously.

Planning Case #2005-21 – Autumn Hills/Shelley Cloose – requesting a special use permit to open a group care facility in an existing nine bedroom house. She proposes to operate a group care facility for 16 persons, which is the maximum number permitted. Planning Commission recommended Council approve the Special Use Permit for a 16 person group care facility with the one condition of receiving a copy of the license and a single annual review, after the first year.

Motion by Erickson, second by Markeson, to grant the Special Use Permit to allow a 16 person group care facility at 2528 Park Avenue NW with the condition that Ms. Cloose submit a copy of the license. In addition, a single annual review by the Planning Commission will be completed after the first year. Motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ryan Property Stormwater Issue:

Downs noted that the City received a letter from Mr. Woytassek regarding the Ryan property stormwater issue. Downs encouraged councilmembers to view the property. This issue will be on the October 3, 2005 agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Bid for Ice Rink Floor Replacement:

Dan Haluptzok, Parks Dept., stated the City contracted with Stevens Engineers to develop bid plans and specifications. Only one bid was received from Commercial Refrigeration Systems, Inc. of Virginia. Haluptzok recommended the Council award the bid to Commercial Refrigeration Systems. If the bid is approved tonight, it is anticipated that the arena should be open for business by Christmas 2005.

Motion by Meuers, second by Hellquist, to accept motion to award bid for ice rink floor replacement to Commercial Refrigeration Systems, Inc. in the base bid amount of \$348,059. Motion carried with the following vote: Ayes: Johnson, Markeson, Downs, Meuers, Hellquist. Nays: Erickson. Absent: Lehmann.

Defenders of America's Freedom Veteran Memorial:

Larry Houg, local military veteran, is working with several area veterans' organizations to raise funds to build a veteran's memorial in Bemidji. The first phase of the memorial is to build a life-sized bronze sculpture of Minnesota Marine veteran, Charles W. Lindberg, who is

the last surviving member of the Marines who raised the first flag on the island of Iwo Jima in 1945. The second phase is to erect eight lighted flag poles representing the United States, State of Minnesota and each of the branches of the Armed Forces. In addition, individual statutes depicting service members in dress uniforms representing each of the branches of the Armed Forces.

Bill Batchelder, DDA representative, stated that Mr. Houg came before the DDA 3 ½ years ago and wanted a prominent public location to display the exhibit. Beltrami County Historical Society gave their approval that it would be a good match next to the depot as it is a safe, permanent and secure location.

Downs commented that this memorial is great for our community and shows our patriotism and thanked Larry Houg, Lee Coe and Bill Batchelder for taking the initiative on this item.

Motion by Markeson, second by Johnson, to approve the location of the Freedom Defenders Veterans Memorial and directed staff to survey this property to confirm the boundary of the City and railroad parcels. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Funding Request – KRL Library (\$1,777 Equipment):

Eischens stated that this item is included as part of the overall library budget for 2006. Motion by Hellquist, second by Meuers, to approve the funding request. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

2006 Library Budget:

Marian Ridge, Director of Kitchigami Regional Library, provided an overview of the KRL system. She stated that the libraries function as branches of one big library. She noted that the current amount budgeted by the City of Bemidji and County is short of what is required for services. Therefore, the City will need to suggest possible cuts to service. Ms. Ridge stated that not all operating expenses can be cut and the KRL Board would have to accept them.

Erickson asked for a list of choices that can be cut to the Bemidji Library. Ms. Ridge will provide some suggestions for possible cuts.

Meuers stated that she would like a work session to discuss service cuts at the Library. Minke suggested that Beltrami County and Blackduck meet with the City for a work session. In addition, the City's representative from Library at KRL should be involved.

Minke stated that for 2006 the City intends to levy \$117,208, of which \$64,308 goes to KRL for operations and the remainder is the maintenance of the local facility. Discussion continued on the amount of shortfall and levy.

Joanne Henningsgard, 1520 Bixby, on Library Board, commented that the City of Bemidji and Beltrami County have gotten the benefit from the charge for operating expenses. She suggested that the County and City need to pay more for services.

Appointment to Parks & Recreation Commission:

Downs stated that there are three good applications for the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Markeson endorsed Mary Lou Marchand who is a master gardener and would bring those skills to the Commission.

Hellquist advocated for Tom Anderson who has appeared before the Council regarding trails and felt he would add a lot to the P&R Commission.

Erickson commented that Mr. Anderson called her and was most enthusiastic about serving on the Parks & Recreation Commission. She felt that Ms. Marchand would also do well.

Motion by Barb, second by Hellquist, to appoint Tom Anderson for the P&R Commission. Motion carried with the following vote: Ayes: Erickson, Downs, Meuers, Hellquist, Johnson. Nays: Markeson. Absent: Lehmann.

Chat-A-Bout for October 3, 2005:

Motion by Johnson, second Hellquist, to discuss the event center on the October 3 Chat-A-Bout program. Motion carried. Meuers and Johnson will discuss the event center on Chat-A-Bout.

ORDINANCES

1. Pursuant to published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input regarding a proposed Ordinance Implementing Sales Tax. Mayor Pro-Tem Downs opened the Public Hearing at 9:20 p.m., hearing no comments the public hearing was closed.

AN ORDINANCE IMPLEMENTING SALES TAX was given a second reading.

2. Pursuant to published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input regarding a proposed Ordinance Annexing Industrial Park Street. Mayor Pro-Tem Downs opened the Public Hearing at 9:21 p.m., hearing no comments the public hearing was closed.

AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING INDUSTRIAL PARK STREET was given a second reading.

3. Pursuant to published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input regarding a proposed Ordinance Repealing Airport Joint Powers Agreement. Mayor Pro-Tem Downs opened the Public Hearing at 9:22 p.m., hearing no comments the public hearing was closed.

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AIRPORT JOINT POWER AGREEMENT was given a second reading.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- September 20 @ 5:30 p.m. – Special Council Meetings – Event Center

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

Hellquist reported that on September 20 the Downtown Bemidji Task Force will meet to review the concepts that will be incorporated into the work that Dick Rose has been doing for downtown renovations.

Erickson reported that the Deer Committee will meet on September 21 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss implementation of the plan. Items to be discussed are exclosures to monitor plant species, bow hunt, herd reduction and deer head count.

Erickson asked Minke about a Pioneer Editorial regarding the downtown event center. The article stated that the south shore’s owner is apparently offering the land for the center to the City for “free” but there are conditions that would be attached to that offer of which the public has not been informed. Erickson stated she knew of no conditions. Minke is not aware of any conditions.

Markeson reported that he attended a Youth for Sister Cities meeting. He commented it is amazing what the youth in the community are involved in.

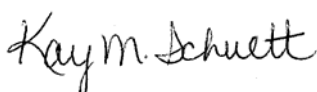
Johnson stated he brought up the parking issue at the last Council meeting, in particular, people parking in their front yards. He noted that Oakes has spoken with an offender; however, since he was at the house there is another car. Oakes will follow-up on this.

Erickson stated she has received several complaints regarding the number of parking tickets being issued. Minke replied that there are three part-time student workers issuing tickets and they are more aggressive.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Hellquist, second by Meuers, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay Murphy-Schuett
City Clerk