

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA
Regular Meeting/Work Session – October 22, 2007

Pursuant to due call and notice, a regular meeting/work session of the City Council of the City of Bemidji, Beltrami County, Minnesota, was held on Monday, October 22, 2007, at 5:15 p.m. in the Conference Room of City Hall, Mayor Lehmann presiding.

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

Staff Present: Jerry Johnson, Dan Haluptzok, Curt Oakes, Brian Freeberg, Ron Eischens, Craig Gray, John Chattin, Dick Sathers, Al Felix, Bill Barthelemy, Kay Murphy

Mayor Lehmann stated that the purpose of the meeting to discuss the 2008 Budget and Capital Improvement Plan. He stated that the Finance Director provided information summarizing the proposed 2008 budget.

Chattin stated department heads provided the Council information regarding their departmental accomplishments in 2007, goals for 2008 and unmet needs. He stated that the hope was that Council would review and if there were any questions department heads are available to answer them.

Markeson commented that it would have been nice to have the budget sheets earlier for the Council to review to assist in setting priorities and the levy.

Hellquist reviewed the list of unmet needs by department heads noting that there is no method to meet these needs.

Erickson commented that there will always be unmet needs especially as the City annexes areas into the City.

Mayor Lehmann observed that some of the office space needs will be alleviated once the Public Works Facility is occupied.

City Engineer Gray noted that six offices will become vacant when the Public Works staff moves to the Public Works Facility, plus a reception area for the secretary.

Johnson noted that some of the unmet needs could be met if the City gets its LGA restored and suggested that a list be taken to the State Legislation.

Markeson commented that the street replacement of every 140 years is a major issue. He further stated that the City cannot count on money from the State. He asked for an explanation of the minor increases in parks budget for building overhead charges.

Eischens stated that building overhead allocation recognizes that the parks department takes up a certain amount of space in the Public Works Facility. In addition, the allocation for the superintendent's pay had been allocated from the arena and park budgets and will now be 100% from the Parks Department.

Erickson stated that in the 2005 CIP for 2006, the City allocated for a water tower in Nymore for \$1 million and \$700,000 on the east side for 2009. The water towers have been moved to 2010 and 2012. Nymore Interceptor was scheduled for 2007 and has been moved to 2009. Discussion continued regarding rehabbing the Nymore Water Tank. Gray stated in 2008 there is a water study to plan for the future and annexation areas which will identify the best place for a new well and water tower.

Erickson noted that Elliott Road paving has been pushed back a number of times. Freeberg stated that this item has been moved back because there is a need to develop an agreement with Northern Township.

Erickson stated that a number of projects for Ward 5 have been pushed back year after year and asked if this was the same for other wards. She stated that residents in Ward 5 deserve improvements. Gray stated that the Engineering Department is looking at a

feasibility report for redoing a number of streets in Ward 5 that would be 100% assessed. Discussion continued regarding prioritization of street projects.

Johnson stated that perhaps if the Council had seen the information prior to setting the levy, the Council would not have been so dead set on keeping the levy at 9.9%.

Markeson stated that because the Council did not allocate the levy to meet the unmet needs it is forced to raise funds in other ways, i.e., increase in franchise fees for electric and gas.


Chattin stated that staff responded well to the task of keeping their budgets down and staff is reviewing ways to reorganize departments.

Markeson stated that it is important not to allow deterioration of services in our community.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Hellquist, second by Johnson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Kay M. Murphy
City Clerk