

**CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**  
**BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA**  
**Regular Meeting/Work Session – September 24, 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, September 24, 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, Hellquist, Erickson, Downs, Meuers. Absent: Markeson, Johnson

Staff Present: Alan Felix, Dan Haluptzok, Brian Freeberg, Craig Gray, John Chattin, Kay Murphy

Mayor Lehmann stated that the purpose of the meeting was to review the request for interpretative panels at Diamond Point Park, a proposal for the Waterfront Park and discuss the Clausen Avenue purchase agreements.

Diamond Point Park Interpretative Panels

Council reviewed the proposed interpretative panels for placement at Diamond Point Park. **Motion by Councilor Erickson, second by Councilor Meuers, to award the quote to Fossil Graphics in the amount of \$13,681 and Gordon Construction in the amount of \$1,654 (installation). Motion carried unanimously.**

Waterfront Project

Scott Turn, representing Bemidji Rotary Club, discussed the impact of geese on the waterfront. He stated that a group made up of Lori Paris, Gary Johnson, Mayor Lehmann and Dan Haluptzok have been meeting for the past 18 months and have come up with a plan to reduce the impact of geese on the waterfront area. The group has the opportunity to apply for a grant from DNR for low level plantings along the lakeshore with a steel railing system. The cable railing will act as a fence to keep away geese and other waterfowl. Railing has minimal blocking of panoramic lake viewing. The structure is made with commercial grade vinyl with cables between posts and posts have lifetime warranty. The project is estimated to cost \$40,000 - \$4,000 for the 400 foot railing system plus \$36,000 for plants and shrubs along the walkway. The project completion date is July 1, 2008 for installing the railing and planting.

Erickson expressed concerns with the planting that was done along the SE Lake Bemidji and wanted to know who would do the planting at the waterfront. Mr. Turn responded that the DNR will oversee the planting.

**Councilor Johnson joined the meeting at 5:30 p.m.**

Mr. Turn suggested an alternate area where people could feed the geese. Downs disagreed and recommended that geese should not be fed at all.

Erickson stated that the geese will just move to another area. Discussion continued regarding the use of the area and sliding in the winter.

**Motion by Councilor Downs, second by Councilor Meuers, supporting the recommendation of the Lake Bemidji Waterfront Project group to apply for a grant from the DNR to install a fence with plantings at the waterfront. Motion carried unanimously.**

Clausen Avenue Trail

Felix stated that the City is seeking to acquire three parcels for the Clausen Avenue Trail. He reported that Amber Green, 703 Clausen Avenue SE, is ready to sell her home and City staff have settled with her regarding a purchase price. Felix stated he is continuing to work with the other two properties. One property owner is looking for another property to move to and the second owner is interested in getting an independent appraisal. Felix stated that the intention is to convey portions of the trails to the DNR and the City would be reimbursed. Chattin stated that the money has to be spent by the DNR prior to July 1, 2008.

Felix stated that Ms. Green's home is a single family residence and the City could explore selling the home to be moved or demolition.

**Motion by Councilor Hellquist, second by Councilor Downs, to approve the Purchase Agreement with Amber Green for 703 Clausen Avenue SE (\$56,925). Motion carried unanimously.**

Tyler Estates

City Engineer Freeberg stated that the City has the opportunity to do a good thing. The drainage area is approximately 550 acres which all drains to this location and has no other place to go. The City's long-term plan is to get a pipe from the middle of this drainage area which will take water some place else. He warned that this will be an ongoing problem. The developer of this area has made a substantial investment and if the City does not take this opportunity to leverage additional investment, the City may be looking at a \$500,000 pipe sooner.

Erickson stated she was opposed to the initial amount approved by the Council and is opposed to contributing anymore City funds toward this project.

Freeberg stated that the developer has met his obligation under the Developer's Agreement; however, in order to get the extra work done, staff recommends that the City pay one-third of the additional cost and Hill will pay two-thirds.

Hellquist questioned Mr. Hill's motives. Discussion continued in this regard with Freeberg noting that there are still unsold homes in Tyler Estates.

Chattin stated that this work could be done this fall yet and alleviate any snowmelt problems in the spring.

**Motion by Councilor Downs, second by Councilor Johnson, to approve the amendment of the existing Stormwater Construction Agreement with Steve Hill to include provision for the additional work as well as an increase in the City's contribution by \$36,000 (from \$138,000 to \$174,000). Motion carried with the following vote: Ayes: Johnson, Lehmann, Downs, Meuers, Hellquist. Nays: Erickson. Absent: Markeson.**

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, motion by Hellquist, second by Downs, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay M. Murphy  
City Clerk