

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA
Work Session – February 8, 2010

Pursuant to due call and notice, a work session of the City Council of the City of Bemidji, Beltrami County, Minnesota, was held on Monday, February 8, 2010, at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of City Hall, Mayor Lehmann presiding.

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

Staff Present: Finance Director Ron Eischens, Parks & Recreation Director Marcia Larson, Public Works Director Craig Gray, City Clerk Kay Murphy

Liquor Store Improvements

Eischens stated that it has been several years since improvements have been made to the City Liquor stores. He noted that repair including flooring, countertops, restroom facilities and other miscellaneous items are needed. The senior liquor clerks provided recommendations for items to be upgraded. The City Building Department solicited bids from three general contractors and the low bid was from Hesch Construction in the amount of \$33,039. He stated that the 2010 liquor store budget includes \$30,000 for store improvements. The south liquor store recently spent \$12,000 replacing glass entrance doors that were not repairable. This leaves \$18,000 to spend on other improvements. He recommended the shortfall of \$15,039 (\$33,039 less \$18,000) could be funded with current liquor store reserves. He noted that contractors will work with liquor store staff to minimize store interruptions and customer inconvenience.

Motion by Hellquist, seconded by Downs, awarding the liquor store improvement bid to the low bidder, Hesch Construction in the amount of \$33,039 with the remaining balance after budgeted amount to be funded by liquor store reserves. Motion carried unanimously.

Park & Trail Project Prioritization

Larson reviewed the recommendations for Park & Trail Project Prioritization as developed by the Parks & Trails Commission. She stated that the City has successfully completed park and trail projects utilizing sales tax funding which include: 1) Diamond Point Park; 2) East-West Trail; 3) West Shore Trail; 4) Nymore Warming House; and 5) Parkland Acquisition (South Shore). Park funds were also used to complete two studies: 1) Carnegie Study and 2) Midway Trail Bridge Study. The Parks & Trails Commission met recently to re-prioritize the use of the remaining sales tax funds. It is evident that not all projects in the Parks, Trails and Open Spaces Plan will be completed using sales tax funds as needs are greater than funding available. The Parks & Trails Commission recommended the City Council allocate the remaining sales tax funding as follows:

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|--|-----------|
| 1. Ridgeway/30 th Street Park | \$250,000 |
| 2. On-Street Stripping/Signage | \$ 27,478 |
| - 15 th Street On-Street Bikeway, Irvine Ave, Lake Irvine,
and other on-street bike routes | |
| 3. Paul Bunyan/Library Park | \$650,000 |
| 4. Cameron Park | \$50,000 |
| (DNR contributing \$100,000) | |
| 5. Nymore Park | \$50,000 |

The total for these projects total \$1,027,478.

Discussion continued regarding the Ridgeway/30th Street Park and relocation of the Carrington Baseball Field. Hellquist noted that the City has committed funds to assist with replacement of the ball field (see March 9, 2009 minutes). Downs stated that the new park is viewed as a benefit to the Hospital, Vista North residents and the Rotary Club. The Bemidji Area Tennis Association has asked for approximately four acres to have indoor courts, etc. and they will pay for the building. Larson commented that the support from community organizations will be crucial as the allotted \$250,000 from sales tax funds will not cover the entirety of the park's development.

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Waldhausen, to accept the Parks & Trails Commission to allocate sales tax funding for the five (5) projects as listed. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Hellquist, seconded by Johnson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay M. Murphy
City Clerk