

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – January 2, 2007

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 2, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, Mayor Lehmann presiding.

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

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Lehmann called for any amendments to the agenda. The following additions were requested:

- Authorize Lift Station Site Acquisition Services
- Approve a 1 day Temporary Consumption & Display Permit – Arts Center on 2/7/07
- Discuss changing date of the Feb. 20 Council meeting

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

MINUTES

Minutes of the December 18 regular meeting and December 18, 2006 BEDA meeting were presented for approval. Motion by Downs, second by Meuers, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Approved Claims submitted by the Finance Officer in the total amount of \$515,760.59.
2. Approved miscellaneous business license renewals for 2007.
3. Approved Designation of Mayor Pro-tem – Downs.
4. Approved Commission/Committee Appointments for 2007.
5. Approved the following One-Day Temporary Consumption & Display Permits:
 - Bemidji Chamber – 2/13/07
 - Arts Center – 2/2/07
6. Approved Gambling Permits: Northwoods Coalition – Bingo on 2/1/07 & 3/1/07
7. Approved Council Travel to CGMC Legislative Action Day (1/10/07) – Erickson
8. Approved Council Travel to LMC – Grand Rapids (1/12 & 13) – Hellquist
9. Authorized Lift Station Site Acquisition Services with Freeberg & Grund for the Birchmont Drive Water & Sewer Project.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

ORDINANCES

Ordinance – Joint Planning Commission

Erickson asked which budget the compensation fee for the Joint Planning Board came from and suggested that it be underneath the Planning Department budget. Oakes responded that there is \$5,000 budgeted for this item but he was unsure where the item was budgeted.

Motion by Hellquist, second by Meuers, accepting the revisions to the Ordinance Ratifying the Greater Bemidji Area Joint Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment and Appeals, and Providing for Succession of the City's Current Advisory Planning Commission. Motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 9, 3RD SERIES, AN ORDINANCE Ratifying the Greater Bemidji Area Joint Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment and Appeals, and Providing for Succession of the City's Current Advisory Planning Commission was given a final reading and passed by unanimous vote.

Ordinance – Street Vacation

Pursuant to published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input pertaining to an Ordinance Amending an Uncoded Section of the Bemidji City Code Pertaining to Street Vacation (PC #2006-14). Mayor Lehmann opened the Public Hearing at 7:10 p.m., hearing no comments the public hearing was closed.

Motion by Erickson, second by Markeson, accepting the changes to the Ordinance Amending an Uncoded Section of the Bemidji City Code Pertaining to Street Vacation (PC #2006-14). Motion passed unanimously.

AN ORDINANCE Amending an Uncoded Section of Bemidji City Code Pertaining to Street Vacation (PC #2006-14 – Sherman Drive area) was given a second reading.

Ordinance – Amending Chapter 28 (Rental Parking)

Mayor Lehmann invited comments from the Council prior to opening the public hearing.

Erickson commented that the City would be overwhelmed with variances with the rental parking requirement. As smaller homes become available, it would inhibit future rental property which is needed in this city. Erickson stated that this will create an inequity between homeownership versus rental units as it would treat people differently than those that own their homes. Erickson asked for an explanation of the purpose of requiring off-street parking for rental units.

Johnson stated that there is not enough available on the street. As more blocks turn into rentals it causes increased parking on the street which in turn creates problems with snow removal. Johnson stated with the parking requirement it would make potential landlords look at the home and create parking for their tenants.

Erickson asked if the landlord needs to provide bituminous parking or an area in the backyard.

Felix stated there is no requirement for impervious surface for off street parking.

Erickson commented that there are a number of lots in our town that do not have room on their lots for parking.

Johnson stated that the parking requirement is to stop homes from becoming rentals without any planning by the landlord.

Markeson commented that he received calls from area residents stating that they felt this requirement would protect their neighborhoods from becoming all rentals and it is a benefit to our community.

Lehmann stated that this is a comfort for renters to know that they can park at their home.

Felix commented that dialog must continue between the City, citizens and BSU to find ways to take care of the problems created from rentals.

Pursuant to published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input pertaining to an Ordinance Amending Chapter 28, Article VII of the Bemidji City Code Relating to Off Street Parking Requirements and Providing for Increased Number of Spaces for Rental Dwellings. Mayor Lehmann opened the Public Hearing at 7:31 p.m., hearing no comments the public hearing was closed.

Motion by Johnson, second by Markeson, accepting the changes to the Ordinance Amending Chapter 28, Article VII of the Bemidji City Code Relating to Off Street Parking Requirements and Providing for Increased Number of Spaces for Rental Dwellings. Motion passed with the following vote: Ayes: Lehmann, Hellquist, Johnson, Meuers, Downs, Markeson. Nays: Erickson.

AN ORDINANCE Amending Chapter 28, Article VII of the Bemidji City Code Relating to Off Street Parking Requirements and Providing for Increased Number of Spaces for Rental Dwellings was given a second reading.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Motion by Meuers, second by Johnson, to move the February 20 City Council meeting to Wednesday, February 21. Motion carried unanimously.

- Monday, January 8 5:30 p.m. Work Session – Friends of the Library
- Tuesday, January 16 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting

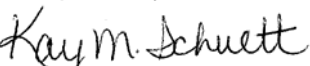
COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

- Chattin stated that the Labor Management Committee will be reviewing the personnel policy and a performance evaluation policy. Staff recently met with Brad's Sanitation on two occasions and they are not interested in providing the city with a sale price or selling. The City is pursuing other options with Brad's and staff will meet with the Public Works Committee to discuss this further. Staff will be meeting to discuss possible future organizational changes especially in the Public Works area over the next few years. Chattin will be attending the CGMC Legislative Action Day on Wednesday, January 10. He stated that he has created a policy for adherence to the budget which is ready for department heads to review and comment and then brought to the Council.
- Erickson will be meeting with Finance Committee Events Center meeting at 7:00 a.m. on January 3, 2007. Erickson reported that on Thursday, January 4 there is a special Airport Commission meeting and they will be meeting with David Turch of Turch & Associates. Turch & Associates provides specialized professional services in providing advocacy for Bemidji Regional Airport and the region it supports, in legislative, resource and regulatory issues.
- Meuers stated that she received a letter from Alyssa Tjepkes with a petition signed by 61 Middle School students requesting the City consider providing a dog park in Bemidji. Meuers stated that the Parks & Recreation Commission will be discussing this further.
- Johnson commented that Airport Commission will continue to discuss making the airport into a taxing authority instead of a joint powers board.
- Markeson thanked the volunteers to the Commission and Committees.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Johnson, second by Hellquist, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Kay Murphy-Schuett
City Clerk