

**CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**  
**BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA**  
**Work Session – August 9, 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, August 9, 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: City Manager John Chattin, City Attorney Alan Felix, Finance Director Ron Eischens, City Clerk Kay Murphy

Others Present: Bob LeBarron, Mike Cronin – VenuWorks/BREC  
Kevin Fenner, Don Baumgartner – Liquor Store Employees

Mayor Lehmann stated that the purpose of the work session was to discuss liquor store operations. He called for any additions to the agenda. The following items were requested:

- Consider bids for ADA and Spot Platforms for the BREC
- Consider bids for East End Bleacher/Riser System for the BREC

**Motion by Waldhausen, seconded by Johnson, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.**

Liquor Store Operations

Chattin reviewed the current liquor store operations stating that sales at both liquor stores are up. He stated that staff has researched expanding liquor operations to a portion of the Cenex Convenience Store located on Hwy 71 South. He stated that there are concerns about expanding given the current state and local financial prospects. Chattin stated that in his opinion this is not the time to take the risk of establishing a third store. All the knowledgeable operators and consultations contacted suggest that this is a bad idea.

Johnson recommended that the City market the current liquor stores to educate the public on where the dollars go. In particular, use the liquor store profit for things, i.e., parks, that the taxpayers can “wrap their arms around”.

Discussion continued regarding potential addition of a third liquor store. Consensus of the Council was that this is not a good time to expand the current liquor store operations to a third location.

ADA and Spot Platforms – BREC

Bob LeBarron, Executive Director VenuWorks, reviewed the two bids received. He stated that VenuWorks is recommending SICO located in Minneapolis.

**Motion by Hellquist, seconded by Johnson, to award the bid for ADA and Spot Platforms for the BREC (Bid Package #5) to SICO in the amount of \$51,868.58. Motion carried unanimously.**

East End Bleacher/Riser System – BREC

LeBarron reviewed the bids for the East End Bleacher/Riser System. VenuWorks is recommending that the Council award the bid to SICO as they are the lowest bidder and can meet the deadline. The bids are as follows:

SICCO	\$227,077.71	
Irwin Seating	\$199,820.00	Cannot make the deadline.
StageRight	\$340,346.00	Did not breakout the pricing.
Hussey	\$235,969.00	Not a qualified bidder.

Council discussed the following:

- Permanent bleacher system versus portable bleacher system. LeBarron explained that the portable system takes approximately 40 man hours to erect and take down

with the cost being approximately \$400 per show. He stated that the cost is minimal and passed along to the show.

- The number of seats with the different systems. The SICO system provides more seating than the other systems.
- Seating appearance versus the permanent seating. LeBarron stated that typically platform/bleacher seating does not match the permanent seating.

LeBarron stated that although Hussey is doing the seating for the rest of the event center, their bid did not meet requirements nor include a bid bond.

Felix asked if the bid included Payment and Performance Bond. LeBarron stated not to his knowledge. LeBarron further stated that the SICO is from Minneapolis and will come to train the BREC employees on proper installation/breakdown of the system.

**Motion by Negard, seconded by Downs, to award the bid to SICO for the East End Bleacher/Riser System (Bid Package #6) in the amount of \$227,077.71. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business, motion by Johnson, seconded by Downs, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay M. Murphy  
City Clerk