

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA
Regular Meeting/Work Session – February 12, 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, February 12, 2007, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, Mayor Lehmann presiding.

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

Staff Present: Brian Freeberg, Alan Felix, Andy Mack, Curt Oakes
Others Present: Bob Barth, Randy Neprash

Mayor Lehmann noted that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System and other related information.

Stormwater / NPDES Permit Update

City Engineer Brian Freeberg stated that the City staff will be submitting the permit application by February 15 and does not require any Council action.

Randy Neprash, Boonestroo & Associates, briefly reviewed the NPDES Phase II MS4 Permit and reviewed the elements of the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP), which may require some new commitments on the part of the City. The elements of the SWPPP are a set of Best Management Practices (BMP) that addresses each of six minimum control measures. The BMP's are 1) public education and education; 2) public participation and involvement; 3) illicit discharge detection and elimination; 4) construction site stormwater runoff control; 5) post-construction stormwater management; and 6) pollution prevention and good housekeeping for municipal operations. Neprash stated that a new ordinance for construction site runoff control will trigger some additional inspection and enforcement procedures. However, it will not require a significant amount of staff time. Neprash stated that these inspections will happen in 2008. Discussion continued on staff requirements and it was noted that there is certified staff.

Discussion continued on sweeping versus vacuuming of the City streets. Mack noted that the City has two mechanical street sweepers but there is a vacuum sweeper in 2007 stormwater utility budget.

Bob Barth, Boonstroo & Associates, stated that the permit is a legal requirement; however, the Surface Water Management Plan is not necessarily a legal requirement. The Plan describes how the City wants to manage stormwater management. The City will be setting some goals and policies in this document and whether the City attains the goals and policies no one is checking but it is more the City's intent. He reviewed the goals and policies section of the Bemidji Surface Management Plan focusing on volume management, water quality and water quantity. He stated that these are the areas where the DNR has to be satisfied to some extent to apply flexibility in applying shoreland requirements to specifically downtown areas. He noted that in most of the future annexation areas where there is high infiltration capacity.

Barth stated that the next steps for completion of the plan are 1) assessment; 2) mapping; 3) implementation plan (tied into NPDES permit MCM's and 4) review and approval.

Erickson asked if there would be a significant increase in cost to the City for implementation and management of the Plan. Freeberg responded that City's our size should plan on spending approximately \$30,000 a year on stormwater inspection, management, reporting, education, etc. The City has this amount in the stormwater utility budget for 2007.

Mack noted that the City spends \$30,000 to \$50,000 a year currently on stormwater maintenance.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Meuers, second by Markeson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Freeberg
City Engineer