

**CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**  
**BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA**  
**Regular Meeting/Work Session – January 14, 2008**

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, January 14, 2008, at 5:30 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, Meuers. Absent: Downs.

Heritage Preservation Commission Members: Paul Richards, Michael Meuers, Alan Brew, Cindy Serratore, Dorothy Baxter

Staff: John Chattin, Alan Felix, Kay Murphy

Motion by Hellquist, second by Johnson, to approve a 1-4 day temporary liquor license for the Northwest Technical College on January 24, 2008. Motion carried.

Mayor Lehmann stated that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposed changes to the Heritage Preservation Ordinance by the Commission.

Paul Richards, member of Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC), gave a presentation to the City Council regarding the proposed preservation ordinance. He stated that preservation is about saving the heart and soul of any community, which is important for economic and social well-being. A community's image is directly related to its economic well-being. Mr. Richards stated that as a Certified Local Government the City would assume a leadership role by identifying, evaluating and protecting historic resources within our community. In addition, the City would receive technical advisory services from the State Historic Preservation Office. In conclusion, Mr. Richards stated that the City has three options: 1) leave things as they are; 2) move towards a CLG status; or 3) eliminate the HPC. The HPC requested the City Council support in applying to the State Historic Preservation Office and the Secretary of Interior for Certified Local Government (CLG) status.

Mayor Lehmann stated that the proposed ordinance did not address property owner involvement or input. Mr. Richards responded that the owner would be involved in the process.

Councilor Markeson stated that there is a benefit to property owners to be in a designated historic district. He stated that it is generally perceived desirable by property owners to have their home classified as historic.

Councilor Erickson asked if there was an economical benefit to be designated as a historic site. Mr. Richards responded that yes there was through a CLG. Discussion continued regarding demolition of a historic site and possible ramifications. Concerns were expressed by Council members regarding a property being placed on the historic list without consent of the property owner. Hellquist commented that property owners should have an easy route to opt out of the process that would put them on the historic register. Alan Brew, HPC Chair, stated that a property placed on the historic list could have his property removed at any time.

Councilor Markeson stated that CLG could provide overall betterment of the downtown (commercial) properties.

Mayor Lehmann asked about the proposed requirement that expenses be reimbursed for members of the HPC as there is currently no budget. Mr. Richards stated that there is funding available from the State to do some of the inventory and HPC members felt that reimbursement of expenses for continuing education by the Council was in order.

City Manager Chattin suggested that Council provide comments or concerns regarding the proposed ordinance amendments to the City Attorney or himself.

Council directed City staff to review the proposed amendments to the HPC ordinance for Council's consideration at a future Council meeting.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, motion by Hellquist, second by Meuers, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay M. Murphy  
City Clerk