

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

December 5, 2005

Pursuant to due call and notice, a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Bemidji, Beltrami County, Minnesota, was held on Monday, December 5, 2005, 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, Downs, Meuers. Absent: Erickson.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Lehmann called for any amendments to the agenda.

Motion by Meuers, second by Markeson, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

MINUTES

Minutes of the November 21, 2005 regular meeting were presented for approval. Motion by Hellquist, second by Downs, to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Approved Claims submitted by the Finance Officer in the total amount of \$700,366.29.
2. Approved miscellaneous business licenses renewals.
3. Approved liquor, wine and club license renewals.
4. Held first reading of beer license renewals.
5. Approved gambling permit – BSU Foundation (Raffle on February 28, 2006).

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – Jon Staff, BYAC president, reported that the Youth Advisory has been discussing ways to become more effective with City government and move back toward their purpose of representing youth on the City Council and throughout the City of Bemidji. John stated that he felt that the Commission has been in an event planning mode. The Commission hopes to become more involved with city commissions. Earlier this year two representatives have been invited to be on the Parks & Recreation Commission. Hope to have a retreat with the City Council within the next few months regarding the June 7 planning. Fellow Commission members introduced themselves to the Council as Charlie Christiansen, Jackie Hess, Leslie Rith-Najarian, Leslie Baird, Jr. John further reported that the Commission is in the process of getting a new advisor. Hellquist suggested that the Commission check out the City's website for weekly newsletter and minutes. Johnson suggested that Youth Commission's minutes could be put on the City's website.

Bemidji State University – Tessa Hoganson reported that recently ten members traveled to St. Cloud and the topic was tuition. They had some discussion on income based tuition instead what came out was an 8.5% cap on tuition increase which BSU did not support. They will be having a cultural diversity meeting in February. Senate is exploring areas for volunteering in the community.

Northwest Technical College – Deb Shofner reported the NTC Student Senate will be hosting a Christmas party for the community at the Campus on December 20, 5-7 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

Continuation of a Public Hearing – Sewer Extension, Minnesota Avenue (between Algoma & Anne Street – Project #05-15):

Lehmann reopened the Public Hearing at 7:19 p.m.

John Faulkner, 3602 Minnesota Avenue NW, stated that he had initiated the proposal to delay the hearing until a later date because he wanted to get more information regarding costs. He questioned why there was a change to the cost of the assessment noting that the new cost is more palatable.

Lehmann stated that the City Engineer has proposed that the project on Minnesota Avenue could be part of a larger project that serves the entire area between Irvine Avenue and Bemidji Avenue, north of current City limits. This area is part of the five year annexation area and there have been inquiries from other property owners on other streets in this area. A study of the most efficient way of providing sanitary sewer to this entire area has not been done to date.

Public Hearing closed at 7:19 p.m.

Motion by Downs, second by Johnson, to accept staff recommendations to take no action on this project. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Memo of Understanding between Northern Township and City regarding Short-term acceptance of Sewage generated from Waville Wastewater Plant

Minke stated that the City has been working with Northern Township to get the details worked out. They need to do renovations to the Waville Treatment Plant.

Downs stated that he is uncomfortable with this process and he believed that there should be a sewer line around Lake Bemidji.

Markeson asked how long the short-term agreement will run.

Minke stated approximately six months. As a City, we need to discourage this type of system. It is an opportunity to help Northern Township and they are paying for that service.

Motion by Hellquist, second by Markeson, to enter into a memo of understanding with Northern Township regarding short-term acceptance of sewage generated from the Waville Wastewater Plant. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 414, 2ND SERIES, An Ordinance amending Chapter 16 entitled "Sales and Use Tax", to Correct Erroneous Information and statutory Reference Therein was given a final reading and passed by unanimous vote.

Motion by Downs, second by Hellquist, to approve publication of a summary of an Ordinance amending Chapter 16 entitled "Sales and Use Tax". Motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 415, 2ND SERIES, An Ordinance Amending the Fee Schedule for 2006 was given a final reading and passed by unanimous vote.

Motion by Hellquist, second by Meuers, to approve publication of a summary of an Ordinance amending the Fee Schedule for 2006. Motion carried.

Pursuant to published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input regarding a proposed Ordinance amending Section 14.17 of the Bemidji City Code pertaining to Lodging Tax. Mayor Lehmann opened the Public Hearing at 7:33 p.m., hearing no comments the public hearing was closed.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 14.17 OF THE BEMIDJI CITY CODE PERTAINING TO LODGING TAX was given a second reading.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Work Session – December 12 @ 5:00 p.m. – Northview Manor Discussion and at 6:16 p.m. – Event Center Presentation
- Event Center Open House – December 12 at 7:00 p.m. – County Admin Building

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

Minke reported that the Staff Newsletter is on the City's website now and is the best source for upcoming meetings.

Markeson stated that the Heritage Preservation Commission had recently met and working on setting new directions for 2006. Tim Flathers will be joining the Commission and lead some discussion groups.

Johnson reported that on December 8 there will be an airport marketing meeting at which they will be discussing the use of the airport as a marketing tool for Bemidji and region. Johnson stated he recently attended the League of Minnesota Cities meeting in Rochester.

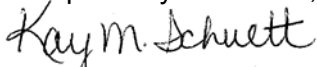
Downs commented that the "Night We Light" parade was very nice.

Lehmann stated that the House Bonding Committee will be at City Hall on Friday, December 9 at 11:00 a.m. to see a presentation on the Event Center and trails. He encouraged Councilmembers to attend the presentation.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Johnson, second by Markeson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay Murphy-Schuett
City Clerk