

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA
Regular Meeting – November 20, 2006

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, November 20, 2006 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, Erickson, Meuers.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

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

- Contract for design of Nymore Warming House - \$13,000 to Consent Agenda
- Purchase of Duane Sea Property added to New Business

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

MINUTES

Minutes of the November 6 regular meeting, November 1, November 13 work sessions, November 9 Canvassing Board and November 13, 2006 BEDA Special Work Session were presented for approval. Erickson noted corrections to the November 6 and November 13 work session minutes. Motion by Erickson, second by Markeson, 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 Hellquist, to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:

1. Approved Claims submitted by the Finance Officer in the total amount of \$1,563,961.75.
2. Approved miscellaneous business license renewals – 2007.
3. Approved One-day Temporary Consumption & Display Permit – Chamber (12/12/06).
4. Approved **RESOLUTION NO. 5375** Adopting Assessment Roll for Delinquent Utility Accounts reflecting Costs for Services Provided during the Year 2006.
5. Approved **RESOLUTION NO. 5376** Adopting Assessment Roll for Water/Sewer Connection Fees (connections completed in 2006).
6. Approved **RESOLUTION NO. 5377** Establishing Non-Union Salaries and City Pay Scale for 2007.
7. Approved **RESOLUTION NO. 5378** Establishing Non-Union Benefits for 2007.
8. Approved Planning Commission Appointment – Laurie Kramka.
9. Approved hiring of an architect to draw plans for replacement of Nymore Warming House in the amount of \$13,000.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – Michelle Frees, BYA Commission, stated that the Commission is collaborating with BSU on a program called “Pay It Forward”. As part of this program, 40 students will travel to different cities and do service projects and will end in Omaha, Nebraska in April 2007. The Commission is planning a holiday event with the Boys & Girls Club on February 2, 2007. This activity will get youth together for a safe and fun event. December Listening Lunch will be with a local charity who will inform students how they can contribute.

OLD BUSINESS**Contract with Leo A Daly – Event Center Architect**

City Manager Chatten stated that the draft contract has been reviewed by staff with some minor changes. This contract falls within the grant agreement that the City will have with the Department of Employment and Economic Development.

Erickson asked the City Attorney what can be done to stop the process should the City find that the Event Center is not feasible.

Felix stated that there are benchmarks that will give the City the opportunity to review the contract or stop the contract with the architect. Felix stated that staff is asking that the Council approve the contract in substantially the format provided. Furthermore, the contract does not need to go to the State for their approval.

Manos Ginis, architect with Leo A Daly, stated that they are ready to start and would like to survey the area and produce a schedule and a process with the city to determine what will be happening in months to come. If all goes well, the anticipated start of the project will be mid-January.

Discussion continued on the size of the ballroom and recommendations from the consultant. Erickson asked about the architect compensation in the amount of \$2,859,000 which is just under the \$3,000,000 from the State and asked if there are other things that the City needs to consider.

Felix replied that the \$2,859,000 covers the pre-design services that are defined in the agreement. The difference of approximately \$100,000 will be used for other categories, i.e., expenses relating to staff, contingencies or perhaps a project manager. There is a little bit of money set aside for services other than the architects that still fits within the grant agreement definition of design/pre-design.

Downs expressed concerns about the location and operation and maintenance costs associated with running the building. He commented that the water table is 6 feet below the ground on 2nd Street, and hoped that the building would be located in an area that would not require constant pumping of water. Mayor Lehmann responded that it is part of the scope of the project to make sure that it will fit the most economical location and still be a viable facility once complete. Felix observed that it is not just the building, it is the parking and all the other aspects of the project that need to be taken into consideration and the building may move depending on what is found on the site.

Motion by Hellquist, second by Johnson, authorizing a contract with Leo A Daly for architectural services in the amount of \$2,859,000 for the Bemidji Regional Event Center. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION**Kitchigami Regional Library 2007 Budget Request**

Betty Hanson-Lehman, Bemidji Library Board representative to KRL Board, stated that the current contentious Master Library Agreement is 25 years old and except for minor changes, remains outdated. She stated that the city and library are not the same in needs or appearance as it was in 1981. It is time for the ill-will between the entities to be done with. Dissension and conflict concerning the budget has caused sorrow to all the library patrons and volunteers for months. She stated that they expect calm mediation, diplomacy and consensus from their elected and salaried officials. Ms. Hanson-Lehman stated that an average of 500 customers use Bemidji Public Library each day. She stated that no matter what their economic circumstances, no one can buy all the information, all the reading material for work or for pleasure on their own. Our library system should be considered and cared for on the par with university or medical facilities as they all contribute to the business climate of our city and the mental health of our citizens.

Marilyn Heltzer, Beltrami County's representative to the KRL Library Board, stated that the budget schedule that was sent to the city and the development of a budget schedule has been good for Kitchigami as all have gained a greater understanding of the budgeting process of the cities and counties. Ms. Heltzer commented that one of the requests was that the language should define the budget committee membership's duties and responsibilities and the KRL Board agreed that this will be done. She observed that one of the Council's main concerns is the service area. Many people who use the Bemidji Public

Library live in Hubbard County but we need to think of the KRL system as one library. She noted that there are several branches which provide the community a lot of technology.

Markeson commented that funding from the State is based on the economy of the county and yet that money is not delegated to our library system. He noted that it goes into the pot for the overall system and the city/county gets no benefit that he is aware of.

Heltzer replied that this is another question that the KRL Board will be addressing. As the State funding goes totally toward supporting the headquarters at Pine River; however, it is the service core for all the books and purchases that are processed. She commented that the County had the same concern and would like to see State money coming back to our County and this is something that needs to be addressed.

Erickson asked if the two KRL representatives will be involved in the hiring and interviewing process for the new City librarian.

Heltzer stated that the two representatives will be involved in interviewing the three applicants and this will probably take place early in December.

Marian Ridge, Director of KRL, reviewed the 2007 Budget for the Bemidji branch noting that the 2007 operating budget total is \$326,282 for 2007 which is an increase of 5% from 2006.

Discussion followed regarding the cost of unpacking books and whether it could be done by volunteers. Ms. Ridge commented that it is a core service and should be done by staff. Ms. Ridge stated that there are many opportunities for volunteers at the Bemidji library. Lehmann stated that perhaps volunteers could be used for unpacking of deliveries and he would like this considered by the KRL Board.

The Council received a resolution regarding Regional Library Basic System support and will consider it at a future meeting. It was noted that the amount of state funding has not increased in over 14 years.

Erickson observed that perhaps there is a more efficient way to provide service to outlying areas than the book mobile. Ms. Ridge responded that the mobile library is very efficient, important to get personal service and there is not a lot of interest among the seniors to use technology.

PUBLIC HEARING

Miscellaneous Assessments for Work Done During 2006

Pursuant to published notice a public hearing was held regarding miscellaneous assessments for work done by the City on private property in 2006. Mayor Lehmann opened the Public Hearing at 8:36 p.m. With no public comment, Mayor Lehmann closed the hearing.

RESOLUTION NO. 5379: Adopting the Roll for Unpaid Assessments for Miscellaneous Work Done by the City on Private Property in 2006 was offered by Councilmember Downs, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Hellquist was passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Chat-A-Bout Topic for December

City Manager will be on the December 4 Chat-A-Bout.

Duane Sea Property

Felix stated that Mr. Sea is prepared to accept the \$300,000 negotiated sum with no conditions for the purchase of his property in SE Lake Bemidji area. Staff believes that this is within the negotiating parameters set forth by the Council at their meeting on November 13, 2006.

Lehmann noted that when the property was abandoned by Georgia Pacific, the HRDC did an assessment on the uses for the property and it was indicated that a park was desired on SE Lake Bemidji.

Motion by Downs, second by Meuers, to approve the purchase of the Sea parcel for \$300,000 with no covenants attached and directed staff to work with Parks & Trails Council

for bridge money until options with the DNR grant dollars are explored. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 7, 3RD SERIES, AN ORDINANCE Amending the Bemidji City Code, Adopting an Amended Fee Schedule for 2007 was given a final reading and passed by the unanimous vote.

Motion by Erickson, second by Hellquist, authorizing the City Clerk to publish a summary of Ordinance No. 7, 3rd Series. Motion passed unanimously.

Pursuant to published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input regarding a proposed Ordinance Amending Chapter 22 of the Bemidji City Code relating to Parkland Dedication Fee. Mayor Lehmann opened the Public Hearing at 8:55 p.m. and with no comment closed the public hearing.

AN ORDINANCE Amending Chapter 22 of the Bemidji City Code relating to Parkland Dedication Fee was given a second reading.

CITIZEN(S) NOT ON AGENDA

Richard Slinkman, Chair of the Planning Commission, advised the Council that there are six Planning Commission members who are interested in being appointed to the Joint Powers Board in March.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- November 27 5:30 p.m. Special Work Session – Budget/Facilities
- December 4 5:30 p.m. TNT Hearing
- December 4 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting
- December 11 5:30 p.m. Continuation of TNT Hearing if needed
- December 12 5:30 p.m. Special Work Session – Diamond Point Park
- December 18 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting

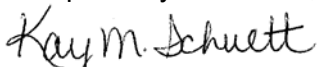
COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

- Lehmann commented that the Night We Light activities are on Friday, November 24.
- Markeson stated the members of the Bemidji Area Race Relations Council have been invited to join the Bemidji Youth Commission to find ways to improve race relations within the community.
- Johnson reported on the Coalition for Greater Minnesota Cities Conference which he recently attended. The Coalition will continue to lobby for the restoration of LGA. The Airport Commission is moving forward on marketing concepts for the airport.
- Hellquist reported that the DDA met recently and the Night We Light activity is set, the Small Cities grant has been updated and the Masonic Lodge has been put on hold. Hellquist stated that the Beltrami County Historical Society is holding a Lefse Festival Cook-off on December 5 at the Hampton Inn.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Hellquist, second by Downs, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay Murphy-Schuett
City Clerk