

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – October 6, 2008

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, October 6, 2008 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, Johnson, Erickson, Downs, Meuers, Markeson, Hellquist, Markeson

Staff Present: City Manager John Chattin, City Attorney Alan Felix, City Engineer Craig Gray, Finance Director Ron Eischens, Deputy City Clerk Michelle Miller

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Mayor Lehmann called for any amendments to the agenda. The following item was requested by Staff to be added for consideration under the Consent Agenda:

- Award Quote for Asbestos Removal

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

MINUTES

Minutes of the September 15, 2008 regular meeting, September 11, 2008 Canvassing Board and September 22, 2008 Work Session were presented for approval. Motion by Hellquist, seconded by Markeson, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Approved Claims Submitted by Finance Officer in the total amount of \$1,862,022.44
2. Approved Reapportionment of Assessments (2211 South Lake Irving Drive SW)
3. **RESOLUTION NO. 5515:** Adopting Assessment Roll for Delinquent Utility Accounts Reflecting Costs for Services Provided During the Year 2008
4. **RESOLUTION NO. 5516:** Declaring Costs to be Assessed and, Ordering Preparation of Proposed Assessment Rolls for City Project 08-11 (2008 Industrial Park Expansion)
5. Approved two 1-4 Day Temporary On-Sale Liquor Licenses for Bemidji State University Alumni Association Events on 10/17/08 and 10/18/08
6. Approved Quote for 2008 Tree Planting in the City's Boulevard to Midway Garden Center (\$5,700)
7. Approved Geotechnical Proposal for Lake Bemidji West Shore Trail – City Project 08-18 to Braun Intertech (\$12,171.50)
8. Approved Proposal for Land Survey for City Park to Karvakko Engineering (\$12,700)
9. Awarded Bid for Sale of Building located at 401 Shevlin Avenue to be moved - Richard Reiersen (\$520)
10. Awarded Quote for Asbestos Removal to buildings known as the former North Central Door Buildings to Building Systems Corporation (\$68,500)

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – Chris Bowman, BYA representative, indicated that they have a game night planned at Dunn Brothers for October 9; a Listening Lunch at Trek North on October 9; working with the Boys and Girls Club Fall Bash on October 10; and contacting local radio stations for the Healthy Living Sub-Committee regarding skin cancer awareness and recycling. Chris indicated he would be meeting with the principal about a paper recycling drive at the high school.

Bemidji State Student Senate - Ryan Schwingler, co-president BSU Student Senate, thanked the Mayor for attending the MSUSA conference. The Mayor spoke at that

conference of the importance of being involved in your community. Ryan also stated that the campus debate held last Tuesday was a very successful event. There were over 200 people in attendance. That debate coincided very well with their “Get Out to Vote Campaign”. As of the night of the council meeting, BSU had over 500 students registered to vote. BSU has more students registered than any other four year state institution in Minnesota. Secretary of State Mark Ritchie will be visiting BSU to recognize them for that accomplishment. Ryan indicated that he will be attending the MNSCU board of trustees meeting, held in Minneapolis, to address the state of the budget of BSU; giving a student’s perspective on that issue. He also indicated that the Student Senate passed their first couple of bills as a student body; one of them being the Student Senate’s support of the construction of the event center.

PRESENTATION

Vote Yes for Our Kids and Our Community – Referendum Committee – Dee Sweeney, Chris Leinen and Ann Long-Voelkner spoke on behalf of Vote Yes for School. Ms. Sweeney indicated they are seeking the City Council’s support of the levy referendum. Ms. Sweeney went on to say that school funding has been increased by the state by 1.5% but because of inflation it has actually decreased. She indicated 87% of school districts are funded locally by levies. In this instance, the State of Minnesota will fund 30% of any referendum passed for the Bemidji School District. We cannot afford not to have this referendum passed. Many jobs will be lost, in addition to programming and increased class sizes.

Ms. Sweeney indicated they are asking for the City Council to pass a resolution supporting the referendum. In lieu of that, they are requested time on Channel 2 to broadcast their “Vote Yes” video.

RESOLUTION NO. 5518: In Support of the Renewal of the Bemidji School District Operating Levy was offered by Councilmember Meuers, and upon due second by Councilmember Downs was passed by unanimous vote.

Motion by Erickson, seconded by Johnson, to authorize broadcasting of a video, “Vote Yes”, to be run on Channel 2. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING

Assessment Roll – Miscellaneous Charges

Pursuant to a published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input regarding the Assessment Roll for Costs Associated with Lot Maintenance, Fire Service Charges, and Other Miscellaneous Work Done by the City on Private Property in 2008. Mayor Lehmann opened the Public Hearing at 7:37 p.m.

Richard Preuss, 824 Roosevelt (Parcel #80.00431.00), approached Council regarding his assessment of \$509.67 and that it should have been paid by the previous homeowner.

Eischens indicated this problem has happened before with realtors not following up with the payment of assessments at closing. Council directed Eischens to work with Mr. Preuss to resolve this matter.

With no further comment, Mayor Lehmann closed the Public hearing at 7:42 p.m.

RESOLUTION NO. 5517: Approving Assessment Roll for Costs Associated with Lot Maintenance, Fire Service Charges, and Other Miscellaneous Work Done by the City on Private Property in 2008 was offered by Councilmember Erickson, who moved its adoption excluding the assessment for Parcel #80.00431.00 (Mr. Preuss), and upon due second by Councilmember Hellquist was passed by unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Award of Bids for Wastewater Treatment Plant Rooftop Air Unit and Reroofing Project

Gray indicated that they received three bids; the low bid being turned in by Shannon-Peterson, Inc. In 2008 Capital Improvement Plan includes \$180,000 for the replacement of the rooftop air exchanger unit on the preliminary treatment building. The total cost of the project came in at \$152,000; which is under budget. Gray also noted that Shannon-Peterson, Inc. is a local company, is capable of completing the project and EACP is recommending them as low bidder.

Council discussed the following:

- Is this work limited to the rooftop area and does it include replacing the roof? Gray stated that this will provide heating and cooling and fresh air return. This project has nothing to do with the wastewater treatment process. Gray also stated that this project does include the replacement of the roof.

Motion by Meuers, seconded by Johnson, to award the contract to Shannon-Peterson, Inc. in the amount of \$125,250 for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Rooftop Air Unit Replacement project. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider Bemidji Youth Hockey Association Request.

A request was made in writing by the Bemidji Youth Hockey Associating requesting the payment of \$30,000 which was the remaining amount due under a resolution passed by the City in 1997 whereby the City pledged \$150,000 paid out over 15 years.

Eischens indicated that the money is paid out of the liquor fund and that there are adequate funds to make the final payment if the council wishes to do so.

Motion by Downs, seconded by Johnson, to approve the request by the Bemidji Youth Hockey Association to pay the remaining \$30,000. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE Amending Chapter 14, Article III of the Bemidji City Code relating to Outdoor Free-Standing Stoves or Furnaces was given a first reading.

LIBRARIAN REPORT

Paul Ericsson, Librarian, stated that the Friends of Bemidji Public Library is a very focused, dedicated and effective group of people. They serve a critical role in assisting in delivering services to the library. He noted that the Friends of Library are celebrating 25 years of services to the library. There will be an open house on October 23 at 7:00 p.m. at the library. Minnesota Author William Kent Kruger will be speaking about his writing, and signing books. The most visible project from the Friends of the Bemidji Public Library is the Red Door Bookstore; which is housed in the library but run solely by volunteers. The sale of books in 2007 raised \$10,000 for the library from the Red Door Bookstore. In addition, the children’s summer reading program and other year round programs, come from funds raised by Friends of the Library. There is also a program with the hospital called Books for Babies, where the parent and child takes home a package of books. Friends of the Library were given an award by Early Childhood Education for this program. Friends of the Library has also taken on tasks to development new programs for adults.

EVENT CENTER UPDATE

Council received an update via e-mail and hardcopy. There was no discussion or comments on the Event Center Update.

CITIZEN NOT ON AGENDA

Dave Lalone, requested more information about the outdoor woodstove ordinance. He brought up the question about the 100 foot set back language and that most of our lots are smaller than that. He inquired about where the complaints were coming from. Felix indicated that this was the first draft and that changes could be made.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Monday, September 22 5:30 p.m. Work Session - TBD
- Monday, October 6 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting
- Wednesday, October 8 6:00 p.m. GBJPB

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

- Chattin indicated there will be lease negotiations with BSU Tuesday; in addition to a League of Minnesota Cities meeting in Fertile on Tuesday at 2:00. The Construction

Manager interviews will be held on Friday in which Bill Merrill will be in attendance. Chatten indicated that an agenda item may be added to the Monday work session regarding a short review of planned unit development documents regarding the south shore development.

- Hellquist stated that RDG will meet with the DDA on Tuesday, October 7. The DDA meeting will be on Wednesday, October 8. The Joint Planning Board and Commission has a trip planned for Tuesday, October 7 to view upcoming projects.
- Downs commented on the visit Bemidji Bike Trail Guide and viewing fall colors pamphlets that were handed out to each councilmember. He indicated this is a good committee and they will be expanding on the brochures.
- Meuers thanked council for appointing her to sit on the DWI steering committee. She indicated it is a very dynamic program and the Pilot program will be good for the community.
- Gray indicated that Birchmont Drive will be paved the end of the week. He indicated that he has been working with Felix on the Birchmont Drive assessment hearing. There is a hearing scheduled for October 30 at Northern Township. Gray said that the project cost came in under the proposed assessment.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Hellquist, seconded by Downs, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle R. Miller
Deputy City Clerk