

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – January 3, 2023

Pursuant to due call and notice, a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Bemidji, Beltrami County, Minnesota, was held on Tuesday, January 3, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, Mayor Prince presiding.

Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Prince, Peterson, Johnson, Rivera, Eaton.

Staff Present: City Manager Nate Mathews, City Attorney Katie Nolting, Finance Director Ron Eischens, City Engineer Sam Anderson, Sanford Center General Manager Sheila Murphy, Fire Chief Justin Sherwood, City Clerk Michelle Miller.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Mayor Prince called for any amendments to the agenda. **Motion by Peterson, seconded by Rivera, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.**

MINUTES

The following minutes were presented for approval:

Council Meeting: November 21, 2022
Council Meeting: December 5, 2022

Motion by Rivera, seconded by Eaton, approving minutes as presented. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

OATH OF OFFICE

City Clerk Miller administered the Oath of Office to re-elected officials Josh Peterson (Ward 2) and Emelie Rivera (Ward 4) and newly elected official Audrey Thayer (At Large). Upon Roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Prince, Peterson, Johnson, Rivera, Eaton, Thayer.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Prince called for any amendments to be made to Consent Agenda. Rivera requested the following items be pulled: (1) Claims Submitted by ASM Global for the Sanford Center, (2) Designation of Mayor Pro-Tem, (3) City Council Commission/Committee Assignments for 2023. The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval. **Motion by Peterson, seconded by Eaton, to approve Consent Agenda items as follows:**

1. Claims Submitted by Finance Officer in the Amount of \$819,604.78
2. 2023 Business License Renewals
3. Designate Official Newspaper of Publication for 2023
4. Approve Reappointments to the Community and Police Advisory Board
5. **RESOLUTION NO. 6467:** Authorizing Joint Powers Agreement with MN Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (Police)

Motion carried by the following unanimous roll call vote: Yeas: Rivera, Peterson, Johnson, Thayer, Prince, Eaton

CITIZENS WITH BUSINESS NOT ON AGENDA

Nancy Beaulieu thanked the council for posting the Tribal Flags in City Hall.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Resolution Declaring a Council Vacancy and Ordering a Special Election (Ward 1)

Miller stated that pursuant to the resignation of Ward 1 Councilmember Audrey Thayer due to her election to the At Large Councilmember position, that a special election will need to be conducted since there is more than one year remaining of the term for Ward 1, which term ends December 31, 2024. Miller further stated that the initial special election will be held on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 with a filing period of January 31, 2023 to February 14, 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 6468: Declaring a Council Vacancy and Ordering a Special Election for Ward 1 was offered by Councilmember Peterson, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Eaton was passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: Yeas: Eaton, Rivera, Peterson, Prince, Johnson, Thayer.

Consider Claims Submitted by ASM Global for the Sanford Center in the Amount of \$45,826.28

Rivera requested information regarding preliminary financials for the Sanford Center. Eischens stated staff are still working on cleaning up old balance sheets and will be bringing financial statements to the Sanford Center Advisory Board and the Council in the next month or so.

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Peterson, approving the claims submitted by ASM Global for the Sanford Center in the Amount of \$45,826.28. Motion carried by the following unanimous roll call vote: Yeas: Johnson, Prince, Eaton, Peterson, Thayer, Rivera.

Consider Designation of Mayor Pro-Tem

Rivera requested clarification on the designation of the Mayor Pro-Tem indicating she had thought this role would be a rotating roll for councilmembers.

Motion by Eaton, seconded by Peterson, Designating Johnson as Mayor Tem for 2023. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Prince, Thayer, Johnson, Eaton, Peterson. Nays: Rivera.

Consider City Council Commission/Committee Assignments for 2023

Rivera commented on the proposed assignments and if those assignments fit the strengths of all councilmembers and also sought clarification on the consultation process with councilmembers in making assignments. Rivera expressed concern for the Parks and Recreation Commission and not having a councilmember appointed until the vacancy is filled.

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Eaton, Approving the City Council Commission/Committee Assignments for 2023. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Prince, Thayer, Johnson, Eaton, Peterson. Nays: Rivera.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Monday, January 9 5:30 p.m. Work Session (Peters Memorial/FairVote MN)
- Tuesday, January 17 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting
- Monday, January 23 5:30 p.m. Work Session (MnDot Update TH 197)
- Monday, January 30 5:30 p.m. Work Session (Update from WOLD)

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Eaton, seconded by Johnson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle R. Miller
City Clerk