

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA
Work Session – January 9, 2023

Pursuant to due call and notice, a work session of the City Council of the City of Bemidji, Beltrami County, Minnesota, was held on Monday, January 9, 2023, at 5:30 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, Thayer.

Staff Present: City Manager Nate Mathews, City Attorney Katie Nolting, City Engineer Sam Anderson, City Clerk Michelle Miller.

Others: Coach Peters Memorial Committee: Marla Patrias, Sandy Kaul, Sylvia Wildgen.
FairVote MN: Maureen Reed

Mayor Prince stated that the purpose of the work session was to hear from the Coach Peters Memorial Committee and from FairVote MN.

Coach Peters Memorial Committee

Marla Patrias, Sandy Kaul and Sylvia Wildgen, members of the Coach Peters Memorial Committee, presented to council the plan to honor Coach Bob Peters in the form of a bronze bust for his lifelong commitment to Bemidji State University, the BSU Men's Hockey team and the community for his advocacy and work in helping to bring a regional event center to the City of Bemidji. The committee would raise funds to commission the bronze bust with Minnesota Artist Nick Legeros and are requesting permission to install the finished piece in the concourse at the Sanford Center, which is the home to the Bemidji State University men and women hockey teams. Bemidji State University would own and maintain the bronze bust. Council consensus was to support the project and authorized staff to bring a resolution to the next council meeting.

FairVote MN

Maureen Reed with FairVote, Minnesota presented an overview of Ranked Choice Voting and the groups' efforts in adopting State legislation for local control for local elections with regards to ranked choice voting for State and Federal elections in Minnesota. Reed stated that Ranked Choice Voting would be an opportunity to improve elections at the state and federal level to promote more civil elections, ensure majority winners in partisan primaries and general elections, to eliminate the spoiled ballot problem, reduce extremism and mitigate legislative gridlock by incentivizing compromise and problem solving. This legislation could also help cities in electing city officials to vacant seats in a timely manner. Councilmembers addressed questions and comments and provided positive feedback with regards to Ranked Choice Voting.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Eaton seconded by Johnson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle R. Miller
City Clerk