

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA
Work Session – February 13, 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, February 13, 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, Finance Director Ron Eischens, Fire Chief Justin Sherwood, Facilities Manager Matt Ridlon, City Clerk Michelle Miller.

Mayor Prince stated that the purpose of the work session was to conduct a listening session to receive input on the rental code amendments.

RENTAL CODE LISTENING SESSION

Pursuant to published notice, a public listening session was held regarding input on Rental Code Amendments. Mayor Prince opened the public listening session at 5:32 p.m., hearing the following comments:

- Mark Dickinson, 2310 Birchmont Dr NE, provided comments supporting easing the restriction of four unrelated occupants and easing the requirement of providing off street parking for each occupant.
- Madi Stone, 914 Clausen Avenue, rental property owner and member of the board of directors of the Headwaters Landlord Association, provided comments supporting the rental code amendments with the exception that the rental ordinance use the current MN State Fire Marshal Code for existing buildings as the standard to evaluate egress windows.
- Sandy Hennum, 3601 Waville Rd NE, provided comments related to renter's rights
- Joan Bernstrom, 42102 433rd St SW, Bagley, rental property owner, provided comments related to egress windows.
- Andrew Ehrholtz, 9862 E. Gull Lake Road, Tenstrike, rental property owner and member of the Headwaters Landlord Association, provided comments supporting occupancy based on bedroom square footage, regardless of whether the tenants are related or unrelated and to require to have not less than one parking space for each unrelated tenant.
- Kathy Guess, 4303 Birchmont Dr NE, rental property owner and member of the Headwaters Landlord Association, provided comments supporting the rental code amendment draft with consideration of three questions: (1) occupancy by square footage; (2) egress window standards; (3) maximum number of four unrelated tenants.
- Linda Lemmer, 155 Gemmel Avenue, provided comments related to maintenance of property and requiring provisions in a lease for the maintenance of property.
- Amy Pearson, 307 27th Street NW, provided comments related to development restrictions in considering changes in the rental ordinance.
- Ben Cahill, Park Avenue, provided comments related to renter's rights
- Lori and Jerry Czech provided a document related to Occupancy Standards Under the Fair Housing Act.

Hearing no further comments Mayor Prince closed the public listening session at 5:58 p.m.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Eaton seconded by Rivera, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michellé R. Miller
City Clerk