

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA
Work Session – March 27, 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, March 27, 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, Rivera, Eaton, Thayer. Absent: Johnson.

Staff Present: City Manager Nate Mathews, City Attorney Katie Nolting, Assistant City Attorney Andrea Kingbird, City Engineer Sam Anderson, Rental Inspector Ben Hein, Building Inspector Todd Beito, Planning Assistant Nickolaus Phillips, City Clerk Michelle Miller.

Mayor Prince stated that the purpose of the work session was to discuss the amended rental code.

RENTAL CODE AMENDMENTS

Rental Inspector Ben Hein provide a summary of his interpretation of council comments and concerns from the February 13, 2023 Work Session as follows:

- Parking is a major issue
- Egress was important but the details had not been worked out sufficiently
- How would occupancy work
- Were the enforcement concerns addressed
- Can the ordinance be adequately enforced

The proposed changes to the rental ordinance were as follows:

- Off Street Parking
 - New rentals will have the same expectations: One spot for each bedroom (minimum of two); one for each additional bedroom.
 - Existing rentals will need to come up with one more parking space to add a bedroom.
- Egress Requirements
 - All new rental units will comply with current Minnesota Residential Building Code for egress requirements.
 - Existing rental units will follow the requirements based on the year of construction.
- Occupancy will be based on the 2006 Property Maintenance Code Sections 10.41-10.44 and 10.46.
- Enforcement provisions have been updated in the ordinance and were reviewed by Hein.

Hein concluded that the Building Department, Planning Department, Fire Department, Headwaters Landlord Association and the Rental Ad Hoc Committee all support the proposed rental ordinance. Consensus of council was to proceed with a first reading of the ordinance at the next council meeting.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Peterson seconded by Eaton, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle R. Miller
City Clerk