

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA
Work Session – April 10, 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, April 10, 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: Finance Director Ron Eischens, City Attorney Katie Nolting, Fire Chief Justin Sherwood, Building Facilities Manager Matt Ridlon, City Clerk/acting City Manager Michelle Miller

Others: John McNamara, Paige Sullivan with Wold Architects and Engineers

Mayor Prince stated that the purpose of the work session was to receive an update from Wold.

WOLD ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS UPDATE

Council received updated recommendations, including five options being located on the block currently occupied by City Hall and the Fire Station as well as using the easterly portion of the block and one option with new construction on other property not identified. Three of the five options included purchasing the property currently owned by First National Bank Bemidji. Summary information on the options were as follows:

- Option 1: Addition/Renovation to City Hall and New Fire Station (\$23,206,000)
- Option 2: New Combined-Northerly Position (\$26,028,000)
- Option 3: New Combined-Easterly Position (\$26,028,000)
- Option 4a: New Combined-Southerly Position-Phased (\$26,000,000)
- Option 4b: New Combined-NW and SE Position-Phase (\$26,000,000)
- Option 5: New Site and Combined (\$26,208,000)

Wold stated that option 4b was an option not desirable for the Fire Department. Council addressed questions and comments with Wold staff and City staff regarding the options above. Rivera and Prince commented on the deferred maintenance needs from the facility assessment study for City Hall and the Fire Hall. Prince inquired about repairing the basement to its original condition to avoid lease costs since it appears a decision on a new City Hall is not likely in the near future.

Consensus of council was to eliminate design options 1, 2, 3, and 4b. Council also expressed a desire for new construction and/or reinvestment to existing facilities.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Peterson, seconded by Rivera, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle R. Miller
City Clerk