

# COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

## BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

### Regular Meeting – April 17, 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 Monday, April 17, 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, Thayer

Staff Present: Finance Director Ron Eischens, City Attorney Katie Nolting, City Engineer Sam Anderson, Parks and Recreation Director Marcia Larson, Assistant City Attorney Andrea Kingbird, Sanford Center General Manager Sheila Murphy, City Clerk/acting City Manager Michelle Miller.

#### **AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA**

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

#### **MINUTES**

The following minutes were presented for approval:

Work Session: March 13, 2023  
Council Meeting: March 20, 2023

**Motion by Johnson, seconded by Thayer, approving minutes as presented. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.**

#### **OATH OF OFFICE**

City Clerk Miller administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Ward 3 official Gwenia Fiskevold Gould. Upon Roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Prince, Fiskevold Gould, Peterson, Johnson, Rivera, Eaton, Thayer.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Prince called for any amendments to be made to Consent Agenda. Rivera requested Claims Submitted by ASM Global for the Sanford Center be removed for discussion. Prince requested Grant Application Regarding Crime Victim Services be removed for discussion. The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval. **Motion by Thayer, seconded by Johnson, to approve Consent Agenda items as follows:**

- 1) Claims Submitted by Finance Officer in the Amount of \$947,176.85
- 2) 2023 Business License Approvals
- 3) Approve Special Event Permit for Bike Bemidji-Loop the Lake (June 17)
- 4) Approve Special Event Permit for Fishing Has No Boundaries (June 24-25)
- 5) Approve Special Event Permit for MMIW218 Rally/Walk (May 5)
- 6) Approve Elliot Road Maintenance Agreement with Northern Township
- 7) Declare Equipment Surplus and Authorize Disposal (Parks)

**Motion carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Rivera, Peterson, Johnson, Fiskevold Gould, Thayer, Prince, Eaton. Nays: None.**

#### **CITIZENS WITH BUSINESS NOT ON AGENDA**

- Michael Meehlhause, 415 Lakeshore Drive NE, provided comments on council actions.
- Joe Vene, 1415 Birchmont Drive NE, provided comments on council actions.
- James Parish, 2515 S. Lake Irving Drive, provided comments on council actions.
- Louis Saxton, 3405 St. Onge Drive, provided comments on council actions.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING**

Public Hearing for Keg N' Cork for the Seasonal Expansion of Liquor License Regarding Outdoor Dining - Consider Permit for Street Café and Seasonable Expansion of Liquor License (2023)

Pursuant to published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input regarding a Permit for Keg N' Cork for the Seasonable Expansion of Licenses Regulating Outdoor Dining. Mayor Prince opened the Public Hearing at 6:15 p.m., hearing no comments, the public hearing was closed at 6:16 p.m.

**Motion by Thayer, seconded by Peterson, approving the permit to Keg N' Cork for the Seasonable Expansion of Liquor License and Street Dining. Motion carried with the following unanimous roll call vote: Yeas: Fiskevold Gould, Eaton, Rivera, Peterson, Prince, Johnson, Thayer.**

**ORDINANCES**

Pursuant to published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input regarding An Ordinance Amending Chapter 10, Article II of the Bemidji City Code Relating to Rental Housing Registration Code. Mayor Prince opened the Public Hearing at 6:18 p.m., hearing no comments the public hearing was closed.

**AN ORDINANCE** Amending Chapter 10, Article II of the Bemidji City Code Relating to Rental Housing Registration Code was given a second reading.

**NEW BUSINESS****Consider Adoption of Parks and Recreation Equity-Based Strategic System Plan**

Larson summarized that in the Fall of 2021, the Bemidji Parks and Trails Commission requested that a Strategic Plan be developed for Bemidji Parks and Trails. This was in response to the increase in demand and use, as well as an increasing number of community members and user groups requesting additional amenities and/or discussion regarding current policies within the park system. With the last Strategic Plan adopted in 2018 and the overall Master Plan adopted in 2011, most of its recommendations had already been completed. With the support of the Parks and Recreation Department and the City Council, a process was initiated with the purpose of developing a strategic plan to guide decision-making, with the goal of being inclusive and strategic in community outreach and the development of strategies

The System Plan was developed through thoughtful and deliberate public engagement. The Commission is excited to present the outcomes and strategies of the six-step process used in the development of the plan.

Bethany Wesley, Chair of the Parks & Recreation Commission, Joe Czapiewski, JFC Strategic Services and Jillian Reiner of Widseth, together with Marcia Larson, presented a power point summary of the plan 158 completed strategic plan. Councilmembers provided comments and fielded questions with individuals referenced above.

**Motion by Fiskevold Gould, seconded by Peterson Adopting the City of Bemidji Parks and Recreation Department Equity-Based Strategic System Plan. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Johnson, Fiskevold Gould, Prince, Eaton, Peterson, Thayer, Rivera.**

**Water and Sewer Infrastructure Along the Northern Portion of Lake Bemidji**

Nolting stated that the use of an outside law firm would be approximately \$230/hour to assist the city related to a water and sewer district. Additionally, Nolting and Anderson provided summary information on the creation of a water and sewer district. Council comments focused on continuing to work through the options. Prince suggested having the previous work group consisting of Thayer, Prince and Johnson should meet and discuss the options. Rivera suggested Councilmember Eaton participate with that committee. Johnson agreed to step away from the committee and Eaton agreed to take his place.

**Motion by Fiskevold Gould, seconded by Johnson, that Councilmember Eaton replace Councilmember Johnson on the existing Northern Township Annexation Committee. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Prince, Rivera, Thayer, Johnson, Eaton, Fiskevold Gould, Peterson.**

**Discuss Potential Council Agenda Topics for Joint Meeting with Beltrami County (May 8)**

Nolting stated that a tentative Joint Meeting with Beltrami County is scheduled for May 8 with suggested agenda topics from staff being: jail project update, airport, law enforcement center, public transit and transportation update. Thayer suggested public safety discussion and both Thayer and Johnson requested an update on the opioid settlement dollars. Prince suggested a discussion related to the Historic Depot Building.

**Consider Claims Submitted by ASM Global for the Sanford Center in the Amount of \$112,257.89**

Rivera inquired of previous charges related to hotel stays and if they were paid. Thayer inquired of charges related to rigging.

**Motion by Rivera, seconded by Thayer, approving the claims submitted by ASM Global for the Sanford Center in the Amount of \$112,257.89. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Thayer, Johnson, Eaton, Rivera, Fiskevold Gould, Peterson, Prince.**

Consider Authorizing Grant Application Regarding Crime Victim Services (Legal)

Nolting stated that a crime victim coordinator is critical in prosecuting cases. This grant would fund a position for three years. Prince pulled to highlight the importance of the grant and the position.

**Motion by Peterson, seconded by Thayer, authorizing Grant Application Regarding Crime Victim Services. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Peterson, Thayer, Fiskevold Gould, Prince, Rivera, Eaton, Johnson.**

**UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS**

- Tuesday, April 18 5:30 p.m. Sp Work Session (2022 Financial Year End Review)
- Monday, April 24 5:30 p.m. Airport Planning Area 3
- Tuesday, April 25 5:00 p.m. Board of Review

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, motion by Peterson, seconded by Fiskevold Gould, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle R. Miller  
City Clerk