

# CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Work Session – Monday, January 13, 2020

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 13, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. in the Chambers of City Hall, Mayor Albrecht presiding.

Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Albrecht, Meehlhause, Beard, Johnson, Rivera, Erickson, Thompson.

Staff Present: City Manager Nate Mathews, City Engineer Craig Gray, Community Development Director Steve Jones, City Attorney Al Felix, Finance Director Ron Eischens, City Clerk Michelle Miller

Others: Bradley Peterson, Flaherty & Hood

Mayor Albrecht stated the purpose of the work session was to discuss Phase 3 Annexation and 2020 Legislative Strategy.

### Phase III Annexation

Mathews stated that due to the 2020 Census as well as the general election staff is seeking direction to commence the annexation process sooner than previously proposed. The proposed annexation area borders Ward 2 and Ward 3 with a natural ward boundary being Irvine Avenue up to Lakewood Drive. Annexing earlier would allow residents an opportunity to file for office in Ward 3. Consensus of the council was to begin the Phase 3 Annexation process at the next council meeting.

### 2020 Legislative Strategy Discussion

Mathews and Peterson layed out the process and options for seeking a sales tax request and food and beverage tax with sales tax must be used for capital projects and food and beverage used for operations. Council discussed pursuing sales tax for the water treatment plant, waste water treatment plant and capital improvements for the Sanford Center. Peterson clarified that if the legislature approves a sales tax request, each request will be a separate question on the ballot for voters. A resolution will need to be adopted and submitted to the tax committee prior to January 31. Council discussed the need to reduce property taxes as it relates to the operations deficit at the Sanford Center. Eischens recommended pursuing a ½% sales tax for the three projects. Council discussed the value of keeping the time of the collection of the sales tax being shorter rather than the maximum time allowed. Council consensus was to pursue a ½% sales tax with the opportunity to discuss a food and beverage tax later. Peterson provided an update on the bonding bill request and stated that Bemidji has done a good job in laying out the importance of the water treatment project.

### Adjourn

There being no further business, motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Erickson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle R. Miller  
City Clerk