

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Pursuant to due call and notice, a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Bemidji, Beltrami County, Minnesota, was held on Tuesday, January 17, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, Mayor Larson presiding.

Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Larson, Waldhausen, Johnson, Hellquist, Albrecht, Negard, Thompson

Staff Present: City Manager John Chattin, City Attorney Alan Felix, Public Works Director/City Engineer Craig Gray, Parks & Recreation Director Marcia Larson, City Clerk Kay Murphy

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Mayor Larson called for any amendments to the agenda. **Motion by Johnson, seconded by Thompson, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

MINUTES

Minutes of the January 3, 2012 regular meeting, January 3, 2012 Annual BEDA meeting and January 9, 2012 work session were presented for approval. **Motion by Waldhausen, seconded by Thompson, to approve the minutes as prepared. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

CONSENT AGENDA

The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval. **Motion by Negard, seconded by Johnson, to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:**

1. Claims Submitted by Finance Officer in the amount of \$5,014,114
2. Claims Submitted by the Sanford Center in the amount of \$106,776.07
3. Miscellaneous Business License Renewals for 2012
4. 1 day Temporary Consumption & Display Permit – Chamber Event on 2/7/12
5. 1-4 Day Temporary On-Sale Liquor License – RP Broadcasting – 2/19/12

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

Sara Iverson, Churches United, stated that they represent 25 churches in our community that pool funds to help those in need, in particular, homeless people. She reported that last year they served 1,600 clients, 500 men and women and 2,000 children. They partner with United Way and the Salvation Army. Currently, Churches United is paying \$1,300 annually for a storage unit and looking for another option. In addition, Ms. Iverson expressed concerns about bus transportation.

Councilor Negard suggested Ms. Iverson give him a call to discuss busing further.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – No one appeared.

BSU Student Senate – Charlie Woodson, Co-Chair, relayed thanks from the Student Senate to the Council for supporting the lighting of the trail by BSU and appreciated the City Clerk looking at the American Indian Resource Center as the Ward 1 polling site.

Greater Bemidji Joint Planning Board – Mayana Rice, Planning Administrator, provided an update on three City cases that the JPC will be considering at their next meeting. Those items are: 1) NW Technical College request for a CUP to occupy a building at 808 Paul Bunyan Drive SE; 2) Sanford Medical request for a Planned Unit Development at 1300 Anne Street; and 3) Amendment to the zoning map for 1020 Washington and 423 Pioneer Street SE which are currently zoned MH (Mobile Home) to B-2 (Business).

OLD BUSINESS

Carnegie Library

Alan Brew, Chair, stated that the Heritage Preservation Commission is requesting the City Council reconsider its position on eliminating the Carnegie Library building and allow the

members of the HPC an opportunity to seek grants and funding to renovate/restore the building.

Mayor Larson asked the Parks & Recreation Director about the status of the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the park design consultant. Parks & Recreation Director Larson stated that the City has requested proposals from consultants interested in the planned redevelopment of Library Park and Paul Bunyan Park. She stated that those responses are due next week and public meetings are anticipated to start in February or March so the design would be complete in time to apply for Legacy Funds.

Albrecht stated that historic structures are important and many in our community support saving the Carnegie Library.

Councilmembers discussed whether taxpayers were willing to pay additional taxes to fund the restoration of the building. Negard stated he was not willing to spend one tax dollar on the restoration of the building.

Brew stated that the HPC, if given the opportunity, would seek to raise all the necessary funds for the preservation and restoration of the building. He also said there are some grants that do not require a local match.

Johnson commented that the Carnegie Library could be used as Upstream TV's studio.

Motion by Thompson, seconded by Johnson, to reverse the Council's previous motion regarding the Carnegie Library. After discussion, Thompson withdrew his motion.

Motion by Thompson, seconded by Albrecht, to save the Carnegie Library. Motion failed with the following vote: Ayes: Thompson, Johnson, Albrecht. Nays: Hellquist, Waldhausen, Negard, Larson.

Annexation Phase I

Mike Kelly, Northern Township Chair, stated that Northern Township was unhappy with the City Council's decision to annex Northern Township and not Bemidji Township and they should have been afforded the opportunity to have a dialog regarding the annexation phases. He stated that Northern Township would like to meet with the City and Bemidji Township representatives on January 31 to discuss the annexation further.

Discussion followed regarding the decision to annex Northern Township and not Bemidji Township. Waldhausen commented that annexing just Northern Township did not go against the Orderly Annexation Agreement.

City Clerk Murphy reported that the State Municipal Boundary Adjustment Unit has reviewed the annexation request and Judge O'Malley would make his decision within 30 days. Murphy further stated that according to Star Holman, State Program Administrator, the City Council could withdraw its resolution and the file would be closed.

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Hellquist, to withdrawn Resolution No. 5743 which initiated Phase I of the Orderly Annexation. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Albrecht, to solicit HRDC to facilitate a discussion with Northern and Bemidji Townships regarding annexation to be completed prior to April 1. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Beyond the Yellow Ribbon

Aaron Yliniemi, First City Yellow Ribbon Chairperson, provided an update on the First City Yellow Ribbon Network stating their purpose is to create awareness for the purpose of connection service members and their families with community support, services and resources in the Bemidji area. There will be an open house dinner and presentation on January 19 at the American Legion.

RESOLUTION NO. 5745: Supporting the Efforts of the First City Yellow Ribbon Network was offered by Councilmember Hellquist, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Negard was passed by unanimous vote.

2012 Street Renewal Project

Gray reviewed the 2012 Street Renewal project. He stated that a neighborhood meeting was held on January 10 which eleven (11) residents attended.

Pursuant to published notice a public hearing was held regarding input on Street Renewal Project #12-01. Mayor Larson opened the Public Hearing at 9:00 p.m.

Sally LaTourelle, 316 Wilson Avenue SE, stated that three of the property owners are not in favor of the paving of that section of Wilson Avenue, as they are still paying on previous assessments, and are requesting that the Council wait at this time. She provided a letter from Wendy Britton, 1117 4th Street SE, who was unable to attend but was also opposed to the paving.

Rita Lauderbaugh, 510 Miles Avenue SE, submitted a petition signed by several property owners on Miles Avenue that were opposed to the paving of Miles. She stated that the proposed assessment is a hardship to many of those that live there.

Doty Hanson, Miles Avenue resident, opposed the paving of her street.

Aaron Humenuik, 420 Miles, asked if the cost of paving would be more if the City delayed paving Miles Avenue? Gray responded, yes, all construction costs go up.

With no further comments, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 9:16 p.m.

RESOLUTION NO. 5746: Ordering Improvement, Designating Project Engineer, Calling for Preparation of Plans and Specifications, and Authorizing Advertisement for Bids on Improvement (City Project 12-01) eliminating the Wilson Avenue portion was offered by Councilmember Negard, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Thompson was passed by unanimous vote.

City Project 11-08

Gray reviewed the Irvine Avenue bridge repair stating that during the annual inspection of the City's bridges it was determined that one of the three expansion joints on the Irvine Avenue Bridge had failed. Upon further inspection it was determined that all three joints need to be replaced. The project plans have been completed and they will be approved soon by MnDOT. The estimated cost of the project is \$92,563 and the City's municipal state aid construction account will pay the construction costs.

Motion by Thompson, seconded by Waldhausen, approving engineering plans and authorizing receipt of bids for the Irvine Avenue Bridge Joint Repair, City Project 11-08. All voted aye. Motion carried.

2012 Commission/Committee Appointments/Reappointments

Larson stated that he and the Chair of the Parks & Trails Committee interviewed the three applicants for the Parks & Trails Commission. The decision was difficult as all three applicants were qualified; however, they recommended Eric Trueblood be appointed.

The following recommendations were made to the appointment list:

- Housing Redevelopment Authority (HRA) – Appoint Hellquist
- Jaycees Water Carnival – Appoint Hellquist and Larson
- Bemidji Regional Airport Commission – Marshall Froyd's term should be 90 days or end March 31, 2012.
- Parks & Trails Commission – Eric Trueblood

Motion by Albrecht, seconded by Thompson, approving the 2012 Commission and Committee Appointment and Reappointments as recommended. Motion carried unanimously.

Waldhausen inquired as to the procedure used for reappointments. Murphy responded that in November letters are sent to those individuals whose terms are ending and ask if they are still interested in continuing to serve. Discussion continued regarding the appointment procedure.

ORDINANCES

AN ORDINANCE Establishing New Ward Boundaries Pursuant to 2010 Census and 2012 Congressional/Legislative Redistricting Plan was given a first reading.

AN ORDINANCE Amending an Uncoded Section of the Bemidji City Code Pertaining to Street Vacation (Portion of Pine Ridge Avenue NW) was given a first reading.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

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| • Monday, January 23 | 5:30 p.m. | Special BEDA Work Session |
| • Monday, February 6 | 7:00 p.m. | Regular Council Meeting |
| • Monday, February 13 | 5:30 p.m. | Work Session – Homeless Discussion &
Sewer Extension w/o Annexation - Humeniuk |

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

- Council members provided updates on upcoming meetings.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Hellquist, seconded by Thompson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay M. Murphy
City Clerk