

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Work Session – Monday, January 22, 2018

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 22, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of City Hall, Mayor Albrecht presiding.

Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Albrecht, Hellquist, Meehlhause, Johnson Absent: Larson, Erickson

Staff Present: City Manager Nate Mathews, City Clerk Kay Murphy
Others Present: HRDC – Tim Flathers, Mary Thompson

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Mayor Albrecht noted the following items to add to the agenda:

- Oath of Office Ward 4 Councilmember
- Consider applicants for appointment to the Sanford Center Board of Directors

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Meehlhause, to accept the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

OATH OF OFFICE

City Clerk Murphy administered the Oath of Office to appointed official Richard Lehmann (Ward 4 term ending 12/31/18).

HOUSING

Mathews stated that the city has been busy administering various housing projects over the past several years with the majority of these having been multi-family in nature. He noted that since 2015, Bemidji has collaborated with developers to build 317 new multi-family units and 93 single-family homes. He suggested that the Council discuss what the City's role in housing is currently and what the City's role should be in the future.

Tim Flathers, HRDC, stated that there are gaps in multi-family. He noted that there have been no tax credit projects funded in over ten years. Discussion continued regarding multi-family housing which by all indications are full.

Mary Thompson, HRDC, reviewed a 2013 Beltrami County Housing Study. She stated of the recommendations listed for rentals items to address include:

- Develop 68 to 72 subsidized housing units
- Develop 52 to 56 tax credit rental housing units
- Monitor the need for additional senior housing with service units

Thompson stated that Conifer Estates has a waiting list of 100 and individuals get "vouchers" which they cannot use due to the lack of apartments that accept them. Thompson stated that of the units three are "transitional" which are managed by BiCAP. The goal is to help residents be successful.

Discussion continued on what the Council envisioned as their role in housing, what funding might be available, ideas for improving neighborhoods and ways to get more single family homes built in City limits.

Mathews suggested that the Council may want to have a work session with local realtors to discuss housing. Council concurred with his suggestion.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mathews stated that the City has received applications for the two At Large positions on the Sanford Center Board of Directors. He stated that the Board will meet on the fourth Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. The applicants are: Patrick Welle, Kristi Miller, DeAnn Zavoral, Dale Thompson and Torrey Swedberg. He noted that Mr. Swedberg is interested in serving on the operations subcommittee. The Board will review and make appointments to the subcommittees. Council discussed the merits of the applicants.

Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Lehmann, appointing Welle and Zavoral as the At Large members on the Sanford Center Board of Directors. Motion carried with the following vote: Ayes: Albrecht, Meehlhause, Johnson, Lehmann. Nays: Hellquist.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Johnson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay M. Murphy
City Clerk