

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA
Special Work Session – Monday, January 22, 2019

Pursuant to due call and notice, a special work session of the City Council of the City of Bemidji, Beltrami County, Minnesota, was held on Tuesday, January 22, 2019, at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, Mayor Albrecht presiding.

Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Albrecht, Beard, Johnson, Rivera, Erickson, Thompson. Absent: Meehlhouse (arrived at 5:40 p.m.)

Staff Present: City Manager Nate Mathews, City Attorney Al Felix, Finance Director Ron Eischens, Public Works Director/City Engineer Craig Gray, Waste Water Treatment Superintendent Al Gorick, City Clerk Michelle Miller

Others: Jessica Hedin and Eric Miller, SEH Engineering

Mayor Albrecht stated the purpose of the work session was to hear findings of the Waste Water Treatment Facility Capacity Evaluation Report.

Waste Water Treatment Facility – Capacity Evaluation Report

Jessica Hedin and Eric Miller from SEH Engineering, presented a capacity evaluation for the Wastewater Treatment Facility. The study uses Residential Equivalent Unit (REU) as a measurement on the impact to the wastewater system by converting all types of development into an equivalent number of single family homes. The 12 systems were analyzed to see if they were sufficient for existing flow and as well as potential flows from expansion or development. The report shows that 10 of the 12 system are sufficient for both the current flow and any proposed extension to the sewer system. However, the aerated grit chamber is insufficient if 3,070 REUs are added. The report shows that the final clarifiers are insufficient for current flow and load conditions and therefore, insufficient for future flow and load. The cost to build a third final clarifier is \$6.0 million. However, there is a strong possibility that the MPCA may establish an ammonia-nitrogen effluent limit for the city as part of its upcoming permit cycle. If the treatment of nitrogen is coming in the next five years, it is recommended that no major improvements be made to solve the design issue until the ammonia-nitrogen limits are established. If new nitrogen limits need to be met there will likely also be other improvements to the existing clarifiers as well as a third clarifier. The total cost for that project could likely be 10-12 million dollars. Staff is recommending that there be no further extension of sanitary sewer mains until the permanent improvements are made.

Albrecht concluded the meeting with no action but suggested that the council discuss this further at a work session including funding and establishing a process for making decisions for future development.

Adjourn

There being no further business, motion by Johnson, seconded by Beard, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michellé R. Miller
City Clerk