

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – January 7, 2019

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, January 7, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in Ballroom 3 Neilson Conference Room at the Sanford Center, 1111 Event Center Drive, Mayor Albrecht presiding.

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

Staff Present: City Manager Nate Mathews, Finance Director Ron Eischens, City Attorney Alan Felix, Public Works Director/City Engineer Craig Gray, City Clerk Michelle Miller

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

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

MINUTES

The following minutes were presented for approval:

Work Session:	December 13, 2018
Council Meeting:	December 17, 2018

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Erickson, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

OATH OF OFFICE

City Clerk Miller administered the Oath of Office to re-elected official Rita Albrecht (Mayor) and newly elected officials Michael Beard (Ward 2), Emelie Rivera (Ward 4) and Jim Thompson (At Large).

CONSENT AGENDA

The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval. Meehlhause was added to the travel authorization request for January 29-30, 2019. **Motion by Beard, seconded by Erickson, to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:**

1. Claims Submitted by Finance Officer in the amount of \$1,037,910.36
2. Claims Submitted by VenuWorks for the Sanford Center in the amount of \$67,266.59
3. General Business License Approvals for 2019
4. Designate Mayor Pro-tem – Erickson
5. City Council Commission/Committee Assignments for 2019
6. Designate Official Newspaper of Publication for 2019
7. **RESOLUTION NO. 6203:** Designating Depositories for City Funds in 2019
8. Approve Change Order #2 for Carnegie Renovation – City Project 18-07
9. Travel Authorization – Legislative Action Day in St. Paul, January 29-30, 2019 – Beard, Rivera & Meehlhause

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

No appearance

REPORTS

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – No appearance.

John Eggers – 100% Graduation Update – No appearance.

PUBLIC HEARING

2019 Street Renewal Project

Assistant City Engineer, Sam Anderson, stated that the 2019 Street Renewal project will consist of improving six city streets comprising of approximately one mile. He briefly summarized the road segments and the extent of the construction of each segment. Anderson reported that there was a neighborhood meeting held on December 13, 2018 for affected residents and was attended by approximately 12 residents. There were several questions from residents of Gemmel Avenue, in particular concerns with narrowing the road, construction of a sidewalk on only one side of the street and the proposed calendar parking. The estimated cost for the 2019

project is \$1,973,628. There is one deviation from the sewer assessment regarding four parcels along 1st Street East which currently do not have sewer access and staff is proposing a sanitary sewer assessment of \$7,000 per parcel, similar to the 2017 Division Street Utility Extension Project. They anticipate to advertise for bids in January.

Pursuant to published notice, a public hearing was held regarding input on the 2019 Street Renewal Project 19-01. Mayor Albrecht opened the Public Hearing at 6:23 p.m. with the following comments:

- Adam Steele, 189 Gemmel Avenue, expressed opposition to the reconstruction of Gemmel Avenue and does not serve a public purpose and is also opposed to narrowing the street, calendar parking as well as the replacement of the existing sewer lines.
 - Gray stated that the residents of Gemmel Avenue are not being assessed the cost of replacing the sewer lines.
- Linda Lemmer, 155 Gemmel Avenue, opposes the narrowing of Gemmel Avenue and would like to see 300 feet widened to match the rest of the street and expressed discrepancies in the amount per lineal feet being charged.
 - Gray stated that the cost to widen Gemmel Avenue would be \$20,000. He also said that staff is still working on designing the project and will work through the possible issue regarding connections.
- Nikki Lemmer, 143 Gemmel Avenue, opposes the narrowing of Gemmel Avenue, the need for a sidewalk and calendar parking.
- Bob Larson, 807 3rd Street SE, expressed concern for the need of a sidewalk and would rather see a bike lane. He also opposes a boulevard as they tend to grow weeds.
- Paul Hofland, 183 and 185 Gemmel Avenue, expressed concern for calendar parking and narrowing of the street. He does see value in upgrading the sidewalk.
- Leo Soukup, 22082 510th Street, has property on Gemmel Avenue and asked about constructing a driveway apron to the lot as well as a concern regarding the trail connection and the ability of traffic to drive through to Shevlin Avenue.
 - Gray stated a straight cut curb will be installed to help limit the ability to drive over the curb.
- Shirl Hofland, 183 and 185 Gemmel Avenue, expressed concern for the trail connection to Gemmel Avenue and could become a safety issue with bike and snowmobile traffic.
- Thomas Smith, 1003 3rd Street SE, opposes the replacement of the water and sewer lines and also opposes a new sidewalk.

Hearing no further comments, Albrecht closed the hearing at 7:14 p.m.

Council discussed the following:

- Beard suggested using cement instead of asphalt to help separate the main trail from the connection to Gemmel Avenue.
- Albrecht commented on the city's commitment to constructing sidewalks to promote walking.
- Rivera commented on the sidewalks not currently being maintained in the winter by residents which forces people to use the street.

RESOLUTION NO. 6204: Ordering the 2019 Street Renewal Project and Authorizing Preparation of Plans and Specifications and Authorizing Advertisement for Bids on Improvement was offered by Councilmember Erickson, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Rivera was passed by the following roll call vote: Ayes: Meehlhause, Beard, Johnson, Rivera, Erickson, Thompson, Albrecht. Nays: None.

NEW BUSINESS

Calendar Parking on Gemmel Ave SW

Gray stated that all three of these parking resolutions will become effective after the 2019 Street Renewal Projects are completed.

RESOLUTION NO. 6205: Authorizing Calendar Parking on Gemmel Avenue SW from Paul Bunyan Drive S to cul-de-sac was offered by Councilmember Erickson, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Johnson was passed by unanimous vote.

Calendar Parking on Third Street SE

RESOLUTION NO. 6206: Authorizing Calendar Parking on Third Street SE from Scott Avenue SE to Grant Avenue SE was offered by Councilmember Meehlhause, who moved

its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Erickson was passed by unanimous vote.

Calendar Parking on Pershing Avenue SE

RESOLUTION NO. 6207: Authorizing Calendar Parking on Pershing Avenue SE from 1st Street East to 3rd Street SE was offered by Councilmember Erickson, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Thompson was passed by unanimous vote.

Smoking Ordinance Discussion

Felix stated that Beltrami County is currently proposing to amend the existing Tobacco Licensing and Sales regulations to raise the legal age from 18 to 21 for purchase of tobacco and electronic delivery devices. In the past, the county and city have mirrored their respective ordinances to ensure consistency in interpreting and enforcing the code. Cynthia Borgen, county health nurse spoke about e-cigarettes and the increase in tobacco use. Erickson stated she is not in favor of enforcing this change at a local level but feels should be addressed at the state level. There was consensus of the council for the City Attorney to bring a proposed ordinance amending the legal age in the tobacco ordinance to the council for a first reading.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Tuesday, January 8 6:00 p.m. Joint LGU – Northern Town Hall
- Monday, January 14 5:30 p.m. Work Session – Hospitality Tax/CDD
- Tuesday, January 22 5:00 p.m. Sp Work Session – WWTF Capacity Report
- Tuesday, January 22 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting
- Monday, January 28 5:30 p.m. Sp Work Session – Ice Feasibility Study

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

- Council members and staff provided updates on current issues and meetings.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Thompson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle R. Miller
City Clerk