

**CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**  
**BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA**  
**Work Session – October 10, 2023**

Pursuant to due call and notice, a work session of the City Council of the City of Bemidji, Beltrami County, Minnesota, was held on Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, Mayor Prince presiding.

Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Prince, Fiskevold Gould, Peterson, Johnson, Rivera, Eaton, Thayer

Staff Present: Fire Chief Justin Sherwood, City Attorney Katie Nolting, City Clerk/acting City Manager Michelle Miller

Others: John Ehret (Supervisor) and Steve White (Fire Service Specialist) with Minnesota State Fire Marshal Division

Mayor Prince stated that the purpose of the work session was to discuss a fire protection model regarding a potential fire district.

**Fire Protection Model**

Chief Sherwood stated that the purpose of this meeting was to discuss further exploring a fire district in our area; stating this meeting aims to look at how the fire department is currently doing business and what other options are available to provide fire protection to the community. Two main reasons to look at a fire district is governance and funding.

John Ehret, provided a Service Planning Kick Off presentation with the following outline:

- Understanding Service
- Timeline
- Understanding Change
- Teams
- SFMD (State Fire Marshal Division)
- Glide Path

Council addressed questions and comments with Chief Sherwood and John Ehret. Chief Sherwood suggested having a joint meeting with Rural Fire Members. Consensus of council was to schedule a joint meeting in the near future.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, motion by Peterson, seconded by Eaton, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle R. Miller  
City Clerk