

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – October 2, 2017

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, October 2, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, Mayor Albrecht presiding.

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

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

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

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

MINUTES

The following minutes were presented for approval:

Council Meeting	September 18, 2017
Work Session	September 25, 2017

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval. The following item was requested to be added: Declare a 2011 Chevrolet Impala as surplus.

Motion by Erickson, seconded by Hellquist, to approve the Consent Agenda items as amended:

1. Claims submitted by the Finance Officer in the total amount of \$664,727.44
2. Claims Submitted by VenuWorks for the Sanford Center in the amount of \$68,823.99
3. Miscellaneous Business License Renewal(s)
4. Declare Equipment Surplus – 1987 GMC Water Tender – Fire Dept.
5. Declare Equipment Surplus – 2011 Chevrolet Impala – Police Dept.
6. **RESOLUTION NO. 6102:** adopting the Assessment Roll for Delinquent Utility Bills for 2017
7. Amended Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission By-laws
8. Waived Various City Permit Fees for Northwoods Habitat for Humanity – 219 Roosevelt Road SW
9. Travel Authorization – LMC Regional Meeting at Thief River Falls on 10/4/17 – Johnson, Erickson

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

Suzanne Liapis, Friends of the Carnegie Library President, shared an email from Andy and Marilyn Kuhn stating that they are pledging \$100,000 toward the Carnegie Project. She stated that with their pledge and a couple of other smaller pledges, the new fundraising total has reached \$1.507 million. This includes the 50% match from the G.W. Neilson Foundation.

Councilor Erickson asked what the total amount needed for the project. Catherine Marchand, Friends Treasurer, stated that the “official” goal will not be known until the project is put out for bids at the end of the year, that the amount is hoped to come in under the current Widseth Smith Nolting estimate, and that in the meantime fundraising for this project will actively continue.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission

Isabelle Lundberg, BYA President, stated that the Commission is partnering with the City Parks & Recreation at “youth nights”. She noted that the Commission has raised \$75 in donations. This year’s Commission members were introduced.

Visit Bemidji Update

Susan Goudge, Executive Director Visit Bemidji, summarized efforts and activities in a recap of the last year, including a strategic planning workshop in April. At that workshop, the Visit Bemidji Board of Directors set the following three goals:

- Enhancing awareness, appreciation and support of the tourism industry.
- Advocating for destination-enhancing development.
- Attracting more meetings, more events and tournaments to Bemidji.

Goudge stated that they are launching a visitor profile study, which will be carried out by the University of Minnesota Tourism Center and other entities.

NEW BUSINESS

Conduct a Public Hearing on Costs Associated with Lot Maintenance and Other Miscellaneous Work Done by the City on Private Property in 2017

Pursuant to published notice a public hearing was held regarding input on Costs Associated with Lot Maintenance and Other Miscellaneous Work Done by the City on Private Property. Mayor Albrecht opened the Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m. and with no comments closed the Public Hearing at 6:31 p.m.

RESOLUTION NO. 6103: Adopting Assessment Roll for Costs Associated with Lot Maintenance, and Other Miscellaneous Work done by the City on Private Property in 2017 was offered by Councilmember Meehlhause, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Erickson was passed by unanimous vote.

Consider a Resolution regarding National Carbon Fee and Dividend Policy

Mayor and Council discussed the proposed resolution from the Citizens Climate Lobby endorsing support for congressional action to enact a national carbon fee and dividend policy. Councilor Erickson expressed concerns about management of the program. Councilor Plemel stated he was not in favor of the resolution. Plemel stated “business should do business and keep the government out of it”.

Mayor Albrecht stated that she was not sure that the Council is in support of this resolution at this time. City Attorney Felix suggested that the Council might consider a “generic” resolution. Council concurred with Mr. Felix’s suggestion.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Monday, Oct. 9 5:30 p.m. Work Session – Tourist Information Center & Private Well Discussion
- Monday, Oct. 16 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

- Council members provided updates on current events and meetings.
- Mathews noted that the closing on the South Shore property with ICON will be on October 3.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Johnson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay M. Murphy
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City Clerk