

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA
Regular Meeting – October 21, 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, October 21, 2019 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 (arrived at 6:05 p.m.), Beard, Johnson, Rivera, Erickson.

Staff Present: City Manager Nate Mathews, City Attorney Alan Felix, Public Works Director/City Engineer Craig Gray, Community Development Director Steven Jones, Assistant City Engineer Sam Anderson, City Clerk Michelle Miller

SWEARING IN CEREMONY

Chief Mastin introduced Officers Daniel Popp and Timothy Korinta and City Clerk Miller conducted the oath of office of each.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

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

MINUTES

The following minutes were presented for approval:
Council Meeting: October 7, 2019

Motion by Beard, seconded by Thompson, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

Beard requested that the reappointment items be pulled from the consent agenda for further discussion. The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval. **Motion by Johnson, seconded by Beard, to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:**

1. Claims Submitted by Finance Officer in the amount of \$1,013,186.23
2. Claims Submitted by VenuWorks for the Sanford Center in the amount of \$67,762.66
3. Business License Renewals for 2020
4. Approve Special Event Permit – Boo Dash – October 26 (Montibello Ski Trail)
5. Approve Special Event Permit – Trunk or Treat – October 31 (Sidewalk Use)
6. **RESOLUTION NO. 6256:** Supporting Bonding Money for Parks and Trails
7. Approve Sanford Center Capital Purchases (\$19,656.36)

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

No appearance

NEW BUSINESS

Conduct a Public Hearing on Proposed Assessments for the 2019 Street Renewal Project – City Project 19-01

Assistant City Engineer Sam Anderson Gray stated that this is the assessment hearing for the 2019 Street Renewal Project under Minnesota Statutes 429 for the following street segments:

Pershing Avenue	1 st Street E – 3 rd Street SE
8 th Street NE	Bemidji Avenue – Lake Blvd
Dewey Avenue	8 th Street NE – 10 th Street NE
3 rd Street SE	Scott Avenue – Grant Avenue
Gemmel Avenue	Paul Bunyan Drive – Cul de Sac
McKinley Avenue	3 rd Street SE – 4 th Street SE

According to the City's assessment policy, the proposed assessments are as follows:

Street Assessment:	\$38/lineal foot
Sanitary Sewer Service Line:	\$1,070/each
Water Service Line:	\$1,070/each

Anderson noted four additional parcels on 1st Street East that received sanitary sewer service, resulting in an assessment of \$5,000 per parcel. He further stated that if any property owner does not see an increase in the value of their property or did not benefit from the project in an amount equal to or greater than the proposed assessment can appeal the assessment amount. The council may act on the appeal or adopt the assessment roll. If a property owner appears at this hearing and is not satisfied with the outcome, can appeal to district court.

The total project cost came to \$2,067,998 with the assessments for the project totaling \$270,595 which is about 13% of the total project costs. The city’s share of the project is funded with the street property tax levy, stormwater utility fund and appropriate shares from the water and sanitary sewer utility funds. The assessments will be spread over a 15-year period with an interest rate of 2.75%

Pursuant to published notice a public hearing was held regarding input on regarding Proposed Assessment for the 2019 Street Renewal Project – City Project #19-01. Mayor Albrecht opened the Public Hearing at 6:13 p.m. The following provided testimony to the council:

- Adam Steele, 189 Gemmel Ave, made objection to the assessment, claiming his property did not receive any measurable benefit from the project.
- Joseph Lorence, 203 Gemmel Ave, expressed concern regarding the cul de sac and Paul Bunyan Transit not being able to go down Gemmel Avenue and turn around. Gray stated that it was due to vehicles parking at the cul de sac. No parking signs have been erected which should resolve that issue.

Hearing no further comments closed the Public Hearing at 6:20 p.m. Gray stated that staff disagrees with Mr. Steele and feels that the assessment of \$2,660 does benefit his property. Gray also explained that the entire cost of the sewer and water replacement costs on Gemmel Avenue were paid by the City.

RESOLUTION NO. 6257: Adopting Assessment Roll for 2019 Street Renewal Project - City Project 19-01 was offered by Councilmember Erickson, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Meehlhause was passed by unanimous vote.

ORDINANCES

2020 Fee Schedule

AN ORDINANCE Amending Fee Schedule for 2020 was given a first reading.

Parking, Stopping and Standing

Felix stated that pursuant to the Public Affairs Committee recommendation, that after the first reading of the ordinance, staff recommends that council direct the Public Affairs Committee to host a meeting to generate additional public input for the Council to be able to reasonably react to the second reading and public hearing of the ordinance.

Erickson expressed concern that the parking restriction might be too strict and perhaps the language should allow for not more than three days parking. Albrecht noted that the second reading of the ordinance will be held at the November 18 regular Council Meeting.

AN ORDINANCE Amending Chapter 24 of the Bemidji City Code, Article III, Entitled “Parking, Stopping and Standing”, Section 24-123, Recreational Camping Vehicle Parking was given a first reading.

ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

Nominate Joint Planning Commission Members for Reappointment – Lemmer & David

Beard expressed concern regarding the general process regarding commissions and committees. He feels Council should promote the value of these commissions and the entry-level positions into government which helps residents get involved with city government.

Motion by Beard, seconded by Thompson approving the Reappointments of Lemmer and David to the Joint Planning Commission. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Monday, October 28 5:30 p.m. Work Session (Economic Development)
- Monday, November 4 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting (Chat-About: Johnson)
- Monday, November 18 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

- Council members provided updates on current events and meetings.

ADJOURN

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michelle R. Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Michelle R. Miller
City Clerk