

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – October 5, 2020

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 5, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, Mayor Albrecht presiding via video and telephone conference.

Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Albrecht, Meehlhouse, Peterson (arrived at 6:03 p.m.), Johnson, Rivera, Erickson.

Staff Present: City Manager, Nate Mathews, Finance Director Ron Eischens, City Attorney Alan Felix, Assistant City Attorney Katie Nolting, City Engineer Craig Gray, Assistant City Engineer Sam Anderson, City Clerk Michelle Miller

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

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

MINUTES

The following minutes were presented for approval:

Work Session: September 14, 2020
Council Meeting: September 21, 2020

Motion by Meehlhouse, seconded by Peterson, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

Albrecht called for any items to be pulled from the consent agenda. The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval. **Motion by Meehlhouse, seconded by Peterson, to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:**

1. Claims Submitted by Finance Officer in the amount of \$1,156,817.18
2. **RESOLUTION NO. 6317:** Approving Assessment Roll for Delinquent Utility Bills for 2020
3. Approve Change Order No. 2 – Arch Lane Sanitary Sewer Project – City Project 20-08
4. Approve Extension to Restaurants for Permits to Use Municipal Sidewalk, Alley and Street Rights-of-Way for Extended Outdoor Patio Use, Including the Serving of Alcoholic Beverages within the Rights-of-Way
5. Approve Purchase of 2021 Ford Pickup Truck for Water/Sewer Department (\$38,736.25)
6. Approve Airport Lift Station Improvements (\$47,710)

Motion carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Johnson, Albrecht, Erickson, Peterson, Meehlhouse, Rivera.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

Ben Cahill expressed his concern of the rising Covid cases in our area and was offended and disappointed by the recent visit and rally from President Trump.

REPORTS

Public Arts Commission – Sylvia Wildgen and Sandy Kaul reported on past project of the public arts commission and provided an update on current and future projects. They also reported that the public arts commission would like council to allocate funds to help with grant requests.

PUBLIC HEARING

Conduct a Public Hearing on Proposed Assessment on Costs Associated with Lot Maintenance and Other Miscellaneous Work Done by the City on Private Property (Resolution Adopting Assessment Roll for Costs Associated with Lot Maintenance and Other Miscellaneous Work Done by the City on Private Property)

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 6:26 p.m. and with no comments closed the Public Hearing at 6:26 p.m.

RESOLUTION NO. 6318: Adopting Assessment Roll for Costs Associated with Lot Maintenance, and Other Miscellaneous Work done by the City on Private Property in 2019 was offered by Councilmember Erickson, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Johnson, was passed by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Erickson, Johnson, Peterson, Rivera, Albrecht, Meehlhouse.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Claims Submitted by VenuWorks for the Sanford Center in the amount of \$27,741.23

Motion by Erickson, seconded by Rivera, Approving the Claims Submitted by VenuWorks for the Sanford Center in the Amount of \$27,741.23. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Peterson, Albrecht, Meehlhause, Rivera, Erickson. Nays: Johnson.

Consider Resolution Authorizing Feasibility Study for 2021 Street Renewal Project – City Project 21-01

Sam Anderson, summarized the results of 12 years of the annual street renewal project, stating that the City has rebuilt about 15.6 miles of streets and approximately 8.8 miles of sidewalks and trails has been added or replaced.

Anderson stated that the feasibility report is the first step in the Chapter 429 assessment process and will outline the proposed improvements, project costs, preliminary assessments and the feasibility of the proposed project which includes the following streets:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Fern Street NW | Power Drive NW – Hwy 71 |
| Ash Avenue NW | Paul Bunyan Drive – 23 rd Street NW |
| 26 th Street NW | Dead end west of Delton Avenue – Bemidji Avenue N |

RESOLUTION NO. 6319: Authorizing Feasibility Study for 2021 Street Renewal Project – City Project 21-01 was offered by Councilmember Meehlhause, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Johnson was passed by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Rivera, Peterson, Erickson, Meehlhause, Albrecht, Johnson.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Monday, October 19 5:15 p.m. Public Affairs Committee
- Monday, October 19 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting

CLOSE MEETING

Albrecht recessed the meeting at 6:41 p.m. and stated they will reconvene for closed session in approximately 10 minutes.

Closed Meeting in accordance with Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.05, Subd. 3(b) for the purpose of discussing with the City Attorney threatened or pending litigation with regards to PFAS Contamination at Airport

Council reconvened at 6:52 p.m. It was noted that all members were present.

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

Others Present: Special Legal Counsel, Nancy Burke and Casey Grabenstein

Albrecht stated that the agenda item is discussing with the City Attorney threatened or pending litigation with regards to PFAS Contamination at Airport.

Motion by Rivera, seconded by Meehlhause, to close the meeting in accordance with Minnesota Statute Section 13D.05, Subd. 3(b) for the purpose of discussing with the City Attorney threatened or pending litigation with regards to PFAS Contamination at the Airport. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting closed at 6:52 p.m.


The Council discussed pending or threatened litigation with regards to PFAS Contamination at the Airport in closed session.

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Meehlhause to reopen the meeting. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. The meeting reopened at 8:20 p.m.

Felix stated that the closed meeting discussion will continue until Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. and that no public action was needed from council from the discussions during this closed meeting.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Johnson, seconded by Meehlhause, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle R. Miller
City Clerk