

# CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

## BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

### Regular Meeting – October 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, October 7, 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, 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, City Clerk Michelle Miller, Fire Department (Relief Association Officers): Bruce Hemstad, Ben Hein, Karl Mork

#### **AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA**

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

#### **MINUTES**

The following minutes were presented for approval:

Work Session: September 9, 2019  
Council Meeting: September 16, 2019

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

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Erickson requested that the travel authorization item be pulled from the consent agenda for separate vote. The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval. **Motion by Erickson, seconded by Meehlhause, to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:**

1. Claims Submitted by Finance Officer in the amount of \$1,901,988.83
2. Claims Submitted by VenuWorks for the Sanford Center in the amount of \$77,795.03
3. Approve Special Event Permit – Bemidji Fire Department Open House
4. **RESOLUTION NO. 6248:** Adopting the Assessment Roll for Delinquent Utility Bills for 2019
5. **RESOLUTION NO. 6249:** Approving a Minnesota Gambling Premises Permit for Lawful Gambling to Bemidji Youth Hockey Association located at C.K. Dudley's Express
6. **RESOLUTION NO. 6250:** Authorizing Execution of Agreement (Domestic Violence Court)
7. **RESOLUTION NO. 6251:** Establishing Connection Fee for 2019 – 30<sup>th</sup> Street Water Utility Service

#### **CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA**

Matthew Liedke, 672 Patriot Drive NW, informed council and the community of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder Awareness Week, the week of October 13-19.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Conduct a Public Hearing on Costs Associated with Lot Maintenance and Other Miscellaneous Work Done by the City on Private Property in 2019

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 6:13 p.m. and with no comments closed the Public Hearing at 6:14 p.m.

**RESOLUTION NO. 6252: 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 Thompson was passed by unanimous vote.**

#### **Consider Bemidji Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association Pension Benefit**

Mathews stated that City Staff and FRA Trustee Member Beard have been discussing the pension benefit with FRA officials. The current understanding expires on December 31, 2019. Additionally, the Public Affairs Committee met on September 24 to discuss this issue and approved the recommendation for a 7% increase of \$7,337 effective January 1, 2020. The relief association is providing their own guarantees by maintaining a surplus position of 130% versus the 105% stated in their by-laws. This provides a cushion against future market downturns, minimizing the risk of a required City contribution. Eischens also noted that the

Rural Fire Association is a financial partner with the City regarding these potential costs. Representatives with the Relief Association addressed questions and concerns expressed by Councilmember Erickson.

**Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Beard approving the FRA annual benefit increase to \$7,337 effective January 1, 2020, including amending FRA By-Laws reflecting the change. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

Consider Resolution Awarding \$4.89 Million – Refunding Bonds to Low Interest Rate Bidder  
Eischens stated that after its annual review of outstanding debts, two bond issues are eligible for refinancing, the 2011 Utility (water/sanitary sewer) bonds and 2014 Utility/Public Works facility bonds, and could result in significant savings for the City. Bond proceeds for refinancing these is \$4.89 million. Myron Knutson of PFM, stated that the City received four bids with a low bid of 1.77%, with actual savings of \$621,000 (or \$50,000 a year) over the next 13 years. Additional, Knutson stated that the City received an “A+” bond rating.

**RESOLUTION NO. 6253: Awarding the Sale of \$4,890,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2019A; Fixing Their Form and Specifications; Directing Their Execution and Delivery; Providing for Their Payment; and Providing for the Redemption of Bonds Refunded Thereby was offered by Councilmember Meehlhause, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Thompson was passed by unanimous vote.**

Authorize Feasibility Report for 2020 Street Reconstruction Project – City Project 20-01  
Gray, summarized the results of 11 years of the annual street renewal project, stating that the City has rebuilt about 14 miles of streets and approximately eight miles of sidewalks and trails has been added or replaced.

Gray 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:

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| 12 <sup>th</sup> Street NW | Norton Ave NW – Park Ave NW                            |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> Street NW | Rice Ave NW – Irvine Ave NW                            |
| Mississippi Avenue NW      | 5 <sup>th</sup> Street NW – 12 <sup>th</sup> Street NW |

**RESOLUTION NO. 6254: Authorizing Feasibility Report for 2020 Street Reconstruction Project – City Project 20-01 was offered by Councilmember Rivera who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Meehlhause, was passed by unanimous vote.**

Authorize Feasibility Report for Birchmont Drive Reconstruction Project – City Project 20-02  
Gray stated that this will be the second road project they will be undertaking in 2020. This section will be on Birchmont Drive NE between 10<sup>th</sup> Street NE and 14<sup>th</sup> Street NE. This road surface is in poor condition and the sanitary sewer and water will be replaced.

**RESOLUTION NO. 6255: Authorizing Feasibility Report for Birchmont Drive Reconstruction Project – City Project 20-02 was offered by Councilmember Meehlhause who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Rivera, was passed by unanimous vote.**

Consider Southview Terrace Manufactured Home Park Evacuation Plan  
Mathews stated that the Southview Terrace Manufactured Home Park has submitted its evacuation plan to the city which has identified Mt. Zion Church as its evacuation location in an event of an emergency. The Church is located within one miles of the park. Staff have reviewed the plan and although there are some concerns, recommends that council approve the plan as submitted.

**Motion by Erickson, seconded by Rivera, approving the Southview Terrace Manufactured Home Park Evacuation Plan. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.**

Consider Consulting Proposal from Strengths Wise  
Mathews stated that he reached out to Jennifer Ford of Strengthswise to obtain a proposal for a possible workshop with council. Albrecht and Johnson recently attending an LMC Board Retreat where Jennifer Ford facilitated this program and thought this might be a helpful exercise for the council as well. The cost is \$4,000 for a half day which could come from contingency funds. Councilmembers expressed concerns with the cost and format of the program. Upon lengthy discussion, consensus of the council was that this program is not the right fit for council at this time.

Consider Travel Authorization – CGMC Board Retreat – November 13 (Meehlhause, Johnson)

Erickson expressed concern with the council travel budget and her position to not approve council travel for the remainder of the year.

**Motion by Beard, seconded by Thompson, approving council travel authorization of Meehlhause and Johnson to the CGMC Board Retreat on November 13. Motion carried by a voice vote of 6-1 with Erickson opposing.**

**ORDINANCES**

**ORDINANCE NO. 163, 3<sup>RD</sup> SERIES**, AN ORDINANCE Vacating/Revoking Ordinance No. 115, 3<sup>rd</sup> Series, and Amending an Uncoded Section of Bemidji City Code Pertaining to Street Vacation (Hillside Avenue) was given a final reading and passed by unanimous vote.

**Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Thompson, approving publication of a summary of Ordinance No. 163, 3<sup>rd</sup> Series. Motion carried unanimously.**

**UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS**

- Tuesday, September 24      5:15 p.m.      Public Affairs Committee
- Monday, October 7          6:00 p.m.      Council Meeting
- Tuesday, October 15       5:30 p.m.      Work Session (Sales Tax)

**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 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle R. Miller  
City Clerk