

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA
Work Session – October 9, 2017

Pursuant to due call and notice, a work session of the City Council of the City of Bemidji, Beltrami County, Minnesota, was held on Monday, October 9, 2017, at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of City Hall, Mayor Albrecht presiding.

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

Staff Present: City Manager Nate Mathews, Public Works Director/Engineer Craig Gray, City Attorney Alan Felix, Parks & Recreation Director Marcia Larson and Deputy City Clerk Michelle Miller

Proposal Regarding Historic Tax Credits

Felix presented a proposal from William Burns in the amount of \$7,500 for the first phase of the Carnegie Library Project of examining the feasibility of using Historic Tax Credits. This amount would be paid by funds held by the City that has been raised by the Friends of the Carnegie Library.

Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Erickson, to accept the proposal of \$7,500 by William Burns regarding the feasibility of the use of Historic Tax Credits for the Carnegie Library Project. Motion carried with the following vote: Ayes: Albrecht, Meehlhause, Johnson, Erickson, Larson Nays: Hellquist.

Tourist Information Center Update

Mathews stated that a task force was created consisting of Chamber and Visit Bemidji leaders to formulate a plan to co-locate Visit Bemidji back into the Tourist Information Center with the Bemidji Chamber of Commerce. Visit Bemidji will be moving into the Tourist Information Center by December 1, 2017. New leases will need to be drafted with each entity. The Public Works Committee will meet to discuss the specifics in those leases. Office Solutions will be evaluating the office area for more efficient use of the space. Mathews stated there are funds available to do light remodeling.

Update on Private Wells

Gray provided a sample ordinance that would prohibit the installation private wells for irrigation purposes when city water is available. The water department is seeing a trend in the use and installation of these private wells for watering large green spaces. Gray is seeking direction from the council to see if this is an ordinance they would like to pursue. An advantage of prohibiting the use of private wells is capturing lost revenue. A disadvantage is having to treat the additional run-off water which will be very expensive. Ultimately, the goal would be to promote best management practices for landscaping that would limit the amount of "green space" that requires regular watering. Erickson suggested that a cost benefit analysis should be conducted. Consensus of the council is to revisit this issue in a couple of months after more information is obtained.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Hellquist, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle R. Miller
Deputy City Clerk