

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – November 16, 2015

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, November 16, 2015 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, Olson, Erickson, Larson Absent: Johnson

Staff Present: City Manager Nate Mathews, City Attorney Alan Felix, Public Works Director/City Engineer Craig Gray, Finance Director Ron Eischens, Fire Chief Dave Hofer, Parks & Recreation Director Marcia Larson, City Clerk Kay Murphy

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

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

MINUTES

The following minutes were presented for approval:

Council Meeting	November 2, 2015
Work Session	November 9, 2015

Motion by Hellquist, seconded by Olson, to approve the minutes as prepared. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval. **Motion by Erickson, seconded by Hellquist, to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:**

1. Claims Submitted by Finance Officer in the amount of \$795,302.48
2. Claims Submitted by Venuworks for the Sanford Center in the amount of \$92,348.56
3. Business Licenses Renewals for 2016
4. **RESOLUTION NO. 5979:** Amending Taxicab Fares for Bemidji Cab Company
5. Appointed John Knorr as Lay Person to Bemidji Airport Authority Board
6. Declared Equipment as Surplus – 2002 Chevy Silverado – Parks Dept.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

Davis Mills, BSU student, presented a petition from concerned BSU faculty and students regarding the lighting around BSU campus on City property. In particular, areas of concern include 15th Street, Birch Lane.

Public Works Director Gray will prepare a report for the Council regarding additional lighting on areas discussed.

Jim Thompson, 1300 Event Center Drive, commented that saving the WPA era bathhouse located on the south end of Lake Bemidji is a good thing.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – Elizabeth Thompson, BYA representative, reported on Commission activities.

Sustainability Committee

On behalf of the Sustainability Committee, Scott Merschman and Anna Carlson reported on the following items:

- 4th annual sustainable places tour was held on Saturday, July 25 at five locations.
- City recognized as a Step 3 Green Step City
- The Committee will be hosting a regional celebration on January 23, 2016 to share successes and meet with other communities.

- The Committee will be discussing storm water management fee structure with the City Manager.

Mayor Albrecht suggested that the Sustainable Committee look at ways to preserve “green belts” in our community for small animals and birds.

Update on Fire Station No. 2

Fire Chief Hoefler provided an overview of drawings for Fire Station No. 2 which will be built along Lake Avenue in 2016.

NEW BUSINESS

Summary of the City Manager’s Six-Month Performance Review

Mayor Albrecht read the following statement:

On Monday, November 9, 2015, the City Council reviewed City Manager Nate Mathews performance. The City Council utilized the services of Springsted, Inc., for Mr. Mathews six-month performance review. This process entailed each Councilmember providing an assessment of his performance as well as a self-assessment prepared by Mr. Mathews.

Sharon Klumpp from Springsted stated, “Nate Mathews is off to a solid start; his communications style and efforts of getting to know the Council, staff and the community are very much appreciated by the City Council. This process also underscores the importance of regularly sharing feedback, among City Council members and the City Manager, and ensuring clear direction on City priorities.”

The consensus of Council is that the City Council is satisfied with the City Manager’s performance.

Councilor Erickson stated that she was not at his performance review on November 9 but had read all the comments which indicate that the Council is very satisfied and extremely impressed with the City Manager.

South Shore Park Project

Parks & Recreation Director Larson stated that the following two proposals for consultant services on the South Shore Park were received:

EAPC	\$35,650
Widseth Smith Nolting	\$51,150

A Selection/Review Committee reviewed the proposals and recommended EAPC. The services to be provided include finalizing the park project, preparing biddings and construction documents, bidding the project, and providing construction services and close-out services.

Motion by Erickson, seconded by Meehlhause, to enter into a consultant agreement with EAPC, Inc., for design and bidding services for the South Shore Park project in the amount of \$35,650. Motion carried unanimously with Councilor Larson abstaining.

ORDINANCES

Amending Skateboard, et al

Pursuant to published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input regarding an Ordinance Amending Chapter 24, Article III, Division I, Section 24.52 entitled “Use of Skateboards, Roller Skates and Roller Blades” of the Bemidji City Code. Mayor Albrecht opened the Public Hearing at 6:47 p.m.

City Manager Mathews noted that the City received a letter from Dr. Hanson at BSU requesting that reference to BSU property in the ordinance removed as they will address it through the campus.

- Frances Kiefer, 3700 Minnesota Avenue NW, expressed safety concerns regarding walking on sidewalks with bikes. She also recommended that skateboard users wear helmets and kneepads.

The following individuals were in favor of the proposed changes:

- Kristjan Thorlacius, 319 Minnesota Avenue NW
- Gabriel Bongaard, 3455 15th Street NE
- Bill Batchelder, 2405 Carol Drive
- Monica Thorlacius, 319 Minnesota Avenue NW

- Jonathan Nichols, BSU student

After discussion, the consensus of the Council was to restrict riding of skateboards, roller skates and roller blades as well as bicycles on the sidewalks downtown 24/7.

City Attorney Felix recommended that the City Council continue the public hearing and second reading to allow further discussion and recommended modifications to the ordinance.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Meehlhause, to continue the Public Hearing and Second reading of the Ordinance Amending Chapter 24, Article III, Division 1, Section 24.52 entitled “Use of Skateboards, Roller Skates and Roller Blades” to the December 7, 2015 Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 119, 3RD SERIES, AN ORDINANCE Amending the Bemidji City Code, Adopting an Amended Fee Schedule for 2016 was given a final reading and passed by unanimous vote.

Motion by Hellquist, seconded by Meehlhause, approving publication of a summary of Ordinance No. 119, 3rd Series. Motion carried unanimously.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Monday, November 23 5:30 p.m. Special Work Session – Fire Relief Assoc. (Fire Station No. 1)
- Monday, November 30 5:30 p.m. Special Work Session – Liquor Stores
- Monday, December 7 6:00 p.m. Regular Council Meeting
- Truth in Taxation Hearing

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

- Council members provided updates on current events and meetings.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Hellquist, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay M. Murphy
City Clerk