

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – November 16, 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, November 16, 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, Meehlhause, Peterson, 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, Police Chief Mike Mastin, Parks & Recreation Director Marcia Larson, Recreation Coordinator Jamie Anderson, City Clerk Michelle Miller

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Mayor Albrecht called for any amendments to the agenda. Staff requested that the Purchase of Software to Automate City and JPB Services be removed to the December 7 meeting. **Motion by Johnson, seconded by Peterson, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.**

MINUTES

The following minutes were presented for approval:

Council Meeting:	October 19, 2020
Council Meeting:	November 2, 2020
BEDA Meeting:	November 2, 2020

Motion by Erickson, seconded by Rivera, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA – PART 1

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

1. Claims Submitted by Finance Officer in the amount of \$1,776,027.95
2. Business License Renewals for 2021
3. Liquor, Sunday Liquor and Wine License Renewals for 2021
4. First Reading of On and Off Sale Beer License Renewals for 2021
5. **RESOLUTION NO. 6325:** Designating Polling Places for the City of Bemidji 2021 Elections
6. Approve Appointment to Parks & Recreation Commission (Gwenia Fiskevold Gould)
7. Approve Purchase of 2021 Dodge Durango - \$38,583 (Police Department)
8. Approve 2020 Budget Amendment #2
9. Approve Bid to Purchase SCBA Equipment from Grand Forks Fire Equipment (\$336,077.38)

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA – PART 2

Albrecht called for any items to be pulled from the consent agenda. Peterson advised that he would be abstaining from the vote due to direct conflict with both items. The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval. **Motion by Erickson, seconded by Meehlhause, to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:**

10. Approve Special Event Permit – Night We Light Un-Parade (South Shore Parking Lots)
11. Approve Council Appointment to Visit Bemidji Board (Rivera)

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

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

No appearance.

REPORTS

Parks and Recreation

Jamie Anderson, Recreation Coordinator provided an update on the 2020 Recreation Programming. She stated that they were able to offer 14 in person programs during the months of January and February and facilitated 26 virtual and programs due to the pandemic. Most of the communications were conducted through social media platforms. Improvements and updates include hiring a new full time staff member, purchase of a new camp van, connecting with various park and recreation

agencies, scholarship fundraisers, and a photo contest. Staff was also able to spend time on the sponsorship packet and the strategic plan. Anderson stated that they will continue to stay connected with other park and recreation agencies and attend virtual meetings and webinars.

Police Advisory Board

Chief Mastin presented his vision of how a police advisory board could serve as a liaison between the police and the community to assist with outreach, awareness and enhance relationships. Mastin shared the Strategic Plan of the Bemidji Police Department which was created and implemented in 2017 based on six pillars of success. Mastin provided an update on police department policies, training and outreach.

Council members expressed gratitude and support for the department as well as room for growth and improvement in creating a police advisory board. Mastin stated that he would like to move forward with guidance and input from the community and the council in creating this program.

Motion by Erickson, seconded by Peterson to yield control of creating and implementing a police advisory board to Chief Mastin. Erickson withdrew the motion.

Felix stated that the council holds the authority of creating committees. Erickson stated it was her intent for Chief Mastin to oversee the structure of the committee and to bring recommendations to the council for implementation. Based on the statements by Felix, Erickson withdrew her motion.

Motion by Erickson, seconded by Peterson directing Chief Mastin to work with the council in creating a structure and potential members to form a police advisory committee. Erickson moved to amend the motion to include formation of a work group to help create a committee. Peterson seconded the amendment. Motion carried with the following roll call vote: Yeas: Erickson, Rivera, Peterson, Albrecht, Johnson, Meehlhause.

Meehlhause suggested that a work group be formed with council members, Chief Mastin and perhaps other community members to help work through the details of creating a committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Claims Submitted by Venuworks for the Sanford Center in the amount of \$35,511.50

Motion by Rivera, seconded by Meehlhause, Approving the Claims Submitted by VenuWorks for the Sanford Center in the Amount of \$35,511.50. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Peterson, Meehlhause, Albrecht, Rivera, Erickson. Nays: Johnson.

Consider Resolution Approving Road Swap with Beltrami County – Birchmont Drive NE, Lake Avenue SE and Balsam Road NW

Gray stated that since 2010 the City and Beltrami County have worked together with regards to exchange of road maintenance and responsibility. The proposed road exchange includes Lake Avenue between 1st Street and Roosevelt Road and Balsam Road lying west of Trunk Highway 71 from the City to Beltrami County with the City receiving the newly annexed portion of Birchmont Drive.

RESOLUTION NO. 6326: Approving Municipal Concurrence for Beltrami County to Revise County State Aid Designations on CSAH 17 (Birchmont Drive NE), CSAH 12 (Lake Avenue SE) and CSAH 40 (Balsam Road NW) in the City of Bemidji (also referred to as a “road swap” with Beltrami County) was offered by Councilmember Erickson, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Meehlhause was passed by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Rivera, Peterson, Johnson, Meehlhause, Albrecht, Erickson

ORDINANCES

Unimproved Birch Street Vacation

Pursuant to published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input regarding an Ordinance Amending an Uncoded Section of Bemidji City Code Pertaining to Street Vacation (Unimproved Birch Street, Mayor Albrecht opened the Public Hearing at 8:39 p.m., hearing no comments the public hearing was closed at 8:40 p.m.

AN ORDINANCE Amending and Uncoded Section of Bemidji City Code Pertaining to Street Vacation (Unimproved Birch Street) was given a second reading.

2021 Fee Schedule

ORDINANCE NO. 171, 3RD SERIES, AN ORDINANCE Amending Fee Schedule for 2021 was given a final reading and passed by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Albrecht, Erickson, Meehlhause, Johnson, Peterson. Nays: Rivera

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Peterson, approving publication of a summary of Ordinance No. 171 3rd Series. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Monday, November 23 5:30 p.m. Public Affairs Committee
- Tuesday, November 24 5:30 p.m. Joint LGU Meeting w/Northern Township
- Monday, November 30 5:30 p.m. Work Session (Water/Sewer Rate Study)

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Peterson, seconded by Johnson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Michelle R. Miller
City Clerk