

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – November 19, 2018

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 19, 2018 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, Lehmann, Erickson, Larson. Absent: Hellquist, Johnson

Staff Present: City Manager Nate Mathews, Finance Director Ron Eischens, City Attorney Alan Felix, Parks and Recreation Director Marcia Larson, City Clerk Michelle Miller

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Mayor Albrecht called for any amendments to the agenda. The motion in item 12 was asked to be removed as it was not relevant for this contract. **Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Erickson, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

MINUTES

The following minutes were presented for approval:

Work Session:	October 22, 2018
Work Session:	October 29, 2018
Council Meeting:	November 5, 2018
Canvassing Board:	November 13, 2018

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Claims Submitted by Finance Officer in the amount of \$857,833.29
2. Claims Submitted by VenuWorks for the Sanford Center in the amount of \$35,715.74
3. Business Licenses for 2019
4. Miscellaneous Temporary Liquor License 2018
5. Liquor, Sunday Liquor and Wine License Renewals for 2019
6. First Reading of On and Off Sale Beer License Renewals for 2019

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

No one appeared.

REPORTS

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – No appearance.

GreensCorps Introduction/Report – Henry Pan, Minnesota GreenCorps Member, introduced himself and presented the projects he will be working on for the next nine months. In particular his work will focus biking and transportation issues.

NEW BUSINESS

Union Contracts

Mathews stated that all union contracts have been successfully negotiated and approved by union stewards and business agents within the parameters set by the City Council including:

- Cost of living increases of 2.25% in 2019, 2.5% in 2020 and 2.75% in 2021. Additionally, all of the contracts accepted the job study results and implementation.
- Change in cafeteria plan structure, which reduced annual benefit costs of \$21,000. The contribution was changed based on level of health insurance; single health coverage employees receive \$900/month; employee with dependents receive \$1,200/month; family coverage employees receive \$1,300/month and local 49er's receive \$1,150/month. For contract years 2020 and 2021 each contribution level increases \$100.

RESOLUTION NO. 6186: Approving the Agreement between the City and the Firefighter Union - Local 2302 (2019-2021) was offered by Councilmember Erickson, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Meehlhause, was passed by unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 6187: Consider Resolution Approving the Agreement between the City and Law Enforcement Labor Services Representing Police Patrol – Local 126 (2019-2021) was offered by Councilmember Meehlhause, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Erickson, was passed by unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 6188: Consider Resolution Approving the Agreement between the City and Law Enforcement Labor Services Representing Sergeants Local 227 Employee Bargaining Unit (2019-2021) was offered by Councilmember Meehlhause, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Lehmann, was passed by unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 6189: Consider Resolution Approving the Agreement between the City and UFCW Local 1189 Representing the Liquor Store Employee Bargaining Unit (2019-2021) was offered by Councilmember Lehmann, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Meehlhause, was passed by unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 6190: Consider Resolution Approving the Agreement between the City and IUOE, Local 49 Representing the Public Works, Parks, Streets and Utility Employee Bargaining Unit (2019-2021) was offered by Councilmember Meehlhause, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Lehmann, was passed by unanimous vote.

Rail Corridor Port Consulting Proposal Review

Mathews stated that the city has received a proposal from the St. Paul Port Authority regarding estimated tasks and costs needed to submit the corridor redevelopment project for state grant applications and construction. Total fees for the implementation services phase totals \$320,070 of which \$118,280 are eligible for grant reimbursement. There are two grants that the city would be eligible to apply for (1) redevelopment grant and (2) contamination cleanup grant. Those grant deadlines are in February so if the city would like to move forward with this project now it would need to make a decision to apply for those grants. Mathews stated that he shared this proposal with some board members and the director of Greater Bemidji and have asked if they might discuss financially assisting the city in this next phase. Staff is seeking direction on how to proceed with this project.

Council discussed the following:

- Albrecht stated that there are not many greater Minnesota cities that apply for these grants so it might be beneficial for the city if it applied.
- Lehmann stated that he has not received a lot of feedback from the community to proceed with this project. Lehmann inquired about where the funds will come from to pay for the grant costs and if those funds will be reimbursed.
- Revolving loan fund could be used to help fund the project. Construction reserves has also been identified as a potential funding source.
- Concerns were raised about other projects for the city that are more critical, including the well issue and waste water treatment capacity.
- There is no firm commitment from Greater Bemidji to help financially.
- It is important to expand the tax base.

Mathews stated that some of the information that would be obtained from applying for these grants would help determine what additional costs might be needed to continue with the project.

No action was taken by council on this issue.

ORDINANCE

First Reading of an Ordinance Amending Chapter 20 of the Bemidji City Code Entitled, “Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places” by Adding Section Relating to Permitting of “Special Events” **Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Erickson to table the first reading of said ordinance until December 3, 2018. Motion carried.** Lehmann inquired about language regarding charging a fee for an event for a non-profit purpose.

First Reading of an Ordinance Amending Chapter 14, Article II, Section 35 of the Bemidji City Code Entitled, “Rules and Regulations Governing Public Parks” **Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Erickson, to table the first reading of said ordinance until December 3, 2018. Motion carried.**

ORDINANCE Amending Fee Schedule for 2019. Mathews explained the revised annual rental permit structure as recommended by staff and the Landlords Association. **Motion by Erickson, seconded by Larson accepting the revised Ordinance. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

ORDINANCE NO. 155, 3RD SERIES, AN ORDINANCE Amending Fee Schedule for 2019 was given a final reading and passed by unanimous vote.

Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Lehmann, approving publication of a summary of Ordinance No. 155, 3rd Series. Motion carried unanimously.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Monday, December 3 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting & TNT Hearing
- Thursday, December 13 5:30 p.m. Sp. Work Session (Sanford Center CIP)
- Monday, December 17 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

- Council members provided updates on current events and meetings.
- Albrecht and Erickson will attend the Airport Authority meeting in Hellquist’s absence and possibly Johnson’s absence.
- Mathews stated that the chambers will need some construction and advised council that the county could be a possible temporary location for council meetings during construction.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Larson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle R. Miller
City Clerk