

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – November 2, 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 2, 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, City Clerk Michelle Miller

SWEARING IN CEREMONY

Chief Mastin introduced Officer Henry Pendleton and City Clerk Miller conducted the oath of office.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Mayor Albrecht called for any amendments to the agenda. Peterson requested that a discussion regarding the Neilson Reise Arena be added. **Motion by Johnson, seconded by Meehlhause, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.**

MINUTES

The following minutes were presented for approval:

Special Council Meeting:	October 14, 2020
Special Work Session:	October 26, 2020
Special BEDA Meeting:	October 26, 2020

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Claims Submitted by Finance Officer in the amount of \$880,861.92
2. Claims Submitted by VenuWorks for the Sanford Center in the amount of \$6,934.39
3. Business License Renewals for 2021
4. **RESOLUTION NO. 6323:** Adopting Assessment Roll for Water/Sewer Deferred Assessment Fees (Connections Completed in 2020)
5. Approve Ottertail Power Underground Line Easement
6. Approve CARES Act Funding Allocations for October (\$147,071)
7. **RESOLUTION NO. 6324:** Approving Participation in Credit Enhancement Program (Water Treatment Plant)
8. Approve Bemidji Police Department Participation in LESO 1033 Program

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

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

No appearance.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Bemidji Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association Pension Benefit

Mathews stated that City Staff have been discussing the 2021 pension benefit with FRA officials. The current understanding expires on December 31, 2020. Additionally, the Public Affairs Committee met on October 19 to discuss this issue and approved the recommendation for a 7% increase of \$7,850 effective January 1, 2021. The relief association is providing their own guarantees by maintaining a surplus position of about 125%. This provides a cushion against future market downturns, minimizing the risk of a required City contribution. Representatives with the Relief Association addressed questions and concerns with Council.

Motion by Rivera, seconded by Peterson approving the FRA annual benefit increase to \$7,850 effective January 1, 2021, including amending FRA By-Laws reflecting the change. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Johnson, Peterson, Rivera, Albrecht, Meehlhause. Nays: Erickson

Discuss Reopening of Neilson Reise Arena

Peterson stated that he has received numerous phone calls and questions surrounding rumors circulating in the community that the Neilson Reise Arena is not going to reopen on a permanent basis. Mathews stated that there has been no decision made regarding the arena and that council directed staff to draft a preparedness plan for the arena to bring to the public affairs committee for discussion and recommendation to council.

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Johnson, to reopen the Neilson Reise Arena pending approval of the preparedness plan for the arena by the public affairs committee. Peterson amended his motion to begin the process of reopening with the installation of ice pending approval of the preparedness plan by the public affairs committee. Upon discussion by council, Peterson withdrew his motion with the expectation that a public affairs committee meeting will be scheduled as soon as possible.

ORDINANCES

2021 Fee Schedule

Pursuant to published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input regarding An Ordinance Amending Fee Schedule for 2021. Mayor Albrecht opened the Public Hearing at 6:43 p.m., hearing no comments the public hearing was closed at 6:44 p.m.

AN ORDINANCE Amending Fee Schedule for 2021 was given a second reading.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Friday, November 13 3:30 p.m. Canvassing Board
- Monday, November 16 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting
- Monday, November 30 5:30 p.m. Work Session (Water/Sewer Rate Study)

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Rivera, seconded by Meehlhause, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle R. Miller
City Clerk