

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – November 21, 2016

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 21, 2016 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, Johnson, Hellquist, Olson, Erickson, Larson Absent: Meehlhause

Staff Present: City Manager Nate Mathews, City Attorney Alan Felix, Finance Director Ron Eischens, City Clerk Kay Murphy

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Albrecht proclaimed November 26, 2016 as Small Business Saturday in Bemidji.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

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

MINUTES

The following minutes were presented for approval:

Council Meeting	November 7, 2016
Special BEDA	November 7, 2016
Canvassing Board	November 14, 2016
Work Session	November 14, 2016

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval. Councilors Johnson and Erickson requested to be added to the travel authorization request. **Motion by Johnson, seconded by Olson, to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:**

1. Claims submitted by the Finance Officer in the total amount of \$592,254.38
2. Business Licenses for 2016
3. Business License Renewals for 2017
4. Liquor, Sunday Liquor and Wine License Renewals for 2017
5. First Reading of On and Off Sale Beer License Renewals for 2017
6. **RESOLUTION NO. 6041:** Confirming Decertification of Tax Increment Financing District No. 5 (Pace)
7. **RESOLUTION NO. 6042:** Between the State of Minnesota and the City of Bemidji (Agreement No. 1027014)
8. Reapportionment of a Special Assessment – Parcel #80.05044.00
9. Amendment No. 1 to Tower Lease Agreement with Northern PCS Services (Sprint)
10. Travel Authorization – LMC Experienced Officials 2017 Leadership Conference – Bloomington – Jan. 27-28 – Albrecht, Meehlhause, Erickson, Johnson

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

Susan Copsiskey, 5775 Radar Road NW, commented on the Bemidji Respect initiative in Bemidji.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission

Isabel Lundberg, BYA representative, reported that the Commission is working on Holiday Mail for Heros and will be participating in the Night We Light parade.

Nameless Coalition

Reed Olson, Coalition Board member, reported that the Wolfe Center opened its doors on October 1, 2016 with 59 individuals utilizing the facility or 267 stays. He stated that the facility is licensed for up to 16 people and they are working on alternative places for individuals to stay if they reach capacity.

Sustainability Committee

Erika Bailey-Johnson reported that the Sustainable Places Tour was held on July 30, 2016 and there were five destinations featured. The tour was well-attended. She stated that the Mayor's Monarch Pledge was signed in September by Mayor Albrecht and provided information in this regard. Jesse Robertson, City employee, reported that the City was awarded a Minnesota GreenCorp member. Nicole Deziel will work on urban forestry initiatives and also assist our GreenStep Cities program as time allows. Robertson stated that the Guaranteed Energy Savings Program is almost complete. He noted that since inception it is estimated that the City has \$96k in electric and natural gas savings.

NEW BUSINESS#BemidjiRespect

Jessica Saucedo, Rail River Folk School, discussed recent incidents involving racially motivated comments in Bemidji. She stated that Mayor Albrecht and a small group organized last week and developed an initiative called "Standing Together" for #BemidjiRespect. Since organizing the group has published a full page ad in the Pioneer with the message of respect. Saucedo commented that more than 85 local businesses and organizations had signed their name in support of the initiative.

Council discussion followed on how the City should move forward in supporting the message. Councilmember Larson commented that it was a noble venture but was concerned about some of the phrasing. He further stated that it belonged in the arena of businesses and individuals endorsing it.

Olson stated that while this initiative would not end racism or stop people from saying rude things, it would send the message that the community has "their back".

Nancy Beaulieu, 21060 Birchmont Beach Road, stated that the statement has good intentions but more is needed by the community.

Scott Faust commented that the Council could send a strong message to the community by endorsing it as a group.

Mayor Albrecht concluded that no vote would be taken this evening as more work is needed before moving forward.

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 131, 3RD SERIES, AN ORDINANCE Amending Article II, Section 2.09, of the Bemidji City Code Pertaining to Mayor and Council Salaries was given a final reading and passed by unanimous vote.

Motion by Hellquist, seconded by Johnson, approving publication of a summary of Ordinance No. 131, 3rd Series. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 132, 3RD SERIES, AN ORDINANCE Amending the Fee Schedule for 2017 was given a final reading and passed by unanimous vote.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Hellquist, approving publication of a summary of Ordinance No. 132, 3rd Series. Motion carried unanimously.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

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| • Monday, Nov. 28 | 5:30 p.m. | Special Work Session – Gene Dillion School |
| • Monday, Dec. 5 | 6:00 p.m. | Council Meeting |
| | | Truth In Taxation Hearing |
| • Monday, Dec. 12 | 5:30 p.m. | Work Session - TBD |

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

- Councilor Erickson reported on a proposed homebound library services which will not need authorization and support from Kitchigami Regional Library System.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Hellquist, seconded by Olson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Kay M. Murphy
City Clerk