

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – November 5, 2012

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 5, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, Mayor Larson presiding.

Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Larson, Waldhausen, Johnson, Hellquist, Albrecht, Negard, Thompson

Staff Present: City Manager John Chattin, City Attorney Alan Felix, Public Works Director/City Engineer Craig Gray, Finance Director Ron Eischens, Fire Chief Dave Hoefer, City Clerk Kay Murphy

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Mayor Larson called for any amendments to the agenda. **Motion by Thompson, seconded by Johnson, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

MINUTES

Minutes of the October 15, 2012 regular meeting and October 22, 2012 work session were presented for approval. **Motion by Johnson, seconded by Thompson, to approve the minutes as prepared. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Claims Submitted by Finance Officer in the amount of \$757,823.69
2. Claims Submitted by VenuWorks for the Sanford Center in the amount of \$166,684.03
3. General Business Licenses Renewals for 2013
4. Approve Updated City Purchasing Policy
5. Approved Audit two year Contract with Miller McDonald (\$40,800 plus \$1,500 to audit Sanford Center operations)
6. Purchase of Towable Generator from Acme Tools in the amount of \$33,585 plus tax for the Sewer Department
7. **RESOLUTION NO. 5795:** Supporting Substitution and Transfer of Mortgage Lien from Harmony Coop's Former Downtown Store Location at 117 3rd Street NW to the Current Downtown Store Located at 302 Irvine Avenue NW

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

No one appeared.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – Annikka Roy, BYA representative, stated the Commission is supporting the school referendum. She stated that students will be writing letters for military overseas as part of the "Holiday Mail for Heros" with the America Red Cross.

BSU Student Senate – Carrie Cooper, Co-President, provided an update on Student Senate activities. Waldhausen stated that will be co-hosting a follow-up meeting regarding parking in the BSU area. He asked the City Clerk to find an open date in November.

Librarian's Report - Paul Ericsson, Branch Manager, stated that the building heating system appears to be operational. The E-book system is very popular and the only complaint is there are not enough titles to check out. He stated that there will be an event on November 17 at the high school – "tiptoe through the 60's" funded with legacy dollars.

OLD BUSINESS**Fire District**

Dave Hoefer, Fire Chief, stated that the fire district committee is looking for guidance and direction from the governing bodies on whether to continue, modify or hold on the concept to establish a Bemidji Area Fire District.

Hellquist stated that the current system is working but there is always the question of fairness to the users. The idea was to explore the creation of something similar to the airport authority or the Greater Bemidji Joint Planning Board. He stated that they looked at what was worth changing and bringing that forward to continue being a topnotch fire department.

Councilmembers discussed the following:

- Fees – Staff responded that the district would have authority to charge fees similar to the airport's taxing authority.
- Capital improvements and replacing equipment – Hoefer stated that this function would be handled by the fire district.
- Fire Station locations – Hoefer stated that the main fire station will remain at its current location and the district would explore adding other stations as needed.

Johnson stated that LGA cuts have affected the funding for public safety and the creation of a fire district could help with continuing to provide the same service.

Albrecht stated that there is a need for special legislation for taxing authority and the current authority in state statute expires in 2013. She suggested that the city will need to lobby the legislature to extend or renew that authority.

Motion by Thompson, seconded by Johnson, to support the fire district concept as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS**Otter Tail Power Request**

Leon Kremeier, Operations Manager for Otter Tail Power (OTP), reviewed OTP's request to relocate its power line along Midway Drive to the south, between the City's east-west trail and the road. He stated that moving the line provides an opportunity to provide an opportunity to clean up the power lines in that area.

Negard stated that he is glad that OTP is cleaning up the wires along that street but would like them to go one step further and place it all underground.

Kremeier responded that going underground increases the cost from \$105,000 to over \$400,000 and did not believe that OTP would be in favor of doing that. He stated that it is hard for OTP to justify going underground.

Johnson asked about the reliability of going underground versus overhead with the lines.

Joe Braun, Sr. Area Engineer for OTP, stated that the distribution is more reliable. However, there are pros and cons to both methods. He stated that if there is a power outage it takes longer to locate when it is underground. He further commented that it is easier to see short circuits and restore service quicker overhead.

Motion by Waldhausen, seconded by Negard, to table OTP's request until they can meet with staff.

Chattin stated that staff has met with OTP representatives. He reviewed staff's proposed requirements if the Council agrees to allow OTP to relocate the line along the trail. He further stated that the relocation of the line would be an aesthetic improvement to the area and provide a more stable power source for the businesses using that line.

Waldhausen withdrew his motion.

Albrecht pointed to the Central City Plan adopted by the City regarding the trail and the proposed landscaping including benches and waste receptacles. She asked if that would be something that OTP would be in favor of and Kramer thought that they would.

Motion by Hellquist, seconded by Albrecht, approving OTP's request to place an express feeder route in the East-West Trail Corridor with the following conditions:

- the line is to be located no less than 10 feet from the trail;

- no transformers, capacitors or other equipment can be hung on the poles;
- transformers will be pad mounted between the poles and Midway Drive;
- Anything other than power lines, i.e., cable or telephone lines, must be hung within 60” of the lowest power line;
- All feeder lines to businesses will be underground; and
- OTP vehicles cannot use the trail for installation or maintenance.

All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE

Pursuant to published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input regarding Adopting an Amended Fee Schedule for 2013. Mayor Larson opened the Public Hearing at 8:12 p.m., hearing no comments the public hearing was closed.

AN ORDINANCE Adopting an Amended Fee Schedule for 2013 was given a second reading.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|---|
| • Tuesday, Nov. 13 | 5:15 p.m. | Canvassing Board – General Election |
| • Tuesday, Nov. 13 | 5:30 p.m. | Work Session – Discuss Music Outdoors & Contribution Policy |
| • Monday, Nov. 19 | 7:00 p.m. | Council Meeting |
| • Tuesday, Nov. 20 | 6:00 p.m. | Joint LGU Meeting at Northern Township |

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

- Council members provided updates on current events and meetings.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Hellquist, seconded by Negard, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay M. Murphy
City Clerk