

# CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

## BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

### Regular Meeting – November 6, 2017

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 6, 2017 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, Hellquist, Johnson, Plemel, Erickson, Larson.

Staff Present: City Manager Nate Mathews, City Attorney Alan Felix, Finance Director Ron Eischens, Public Works Director/City Engineer Craig Gray, Police Chief Mike Mastin, City Clerk Kay Murphy

#### **PROCLAMATION**

Mayor Albrecht declared the week of November 12-18, 2017 as Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week.

#### **AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA**

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

#### **MINUTES**

The following minutes were presented for approval:

Council Meeting	October 16, 2017
Special BEDA	October 16, 2017

**Motion by Johnson, seconded by Meehlhause, to approve the minutes as prepared. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

1. Claims submitted by the Finance Officer in the total amount of \$1,620,789.86
2. Claims Submitted by VenuWorks for the Sanford Center in the amount of \$127,143.65
3. 2017 Business Licenses for C.K. Dudley's Express at 1426 Bemidji Ave N (formerly the Beaver Mart)
4. Business License Renewals for 2018
5. 1-4 Day Temporary On-Sale Liquor License – Watermark Art Center on 11/30/17
6. 1-Day Temporary Consumption & Display Permit – Headwaters Science Center Event on 2/24/18
7. Senior Citizen Deferral for Property owner at 729 17th St NW – City Project #17-04
8. Reapportionment of Special Assessments – Parcel #80.05528.00
9. Purchase of 2017 Police SUV from Hibbing Ford in the amount of \$28,863
10. Purchase of an Arena/Parks Vehicle from Nelson Auto Center in the amount of \$27,254 – Parks Department
11. Declared a 1998 Chevy 1500 4x2 Cheyenne Pickup as Surplus – Parks Department
12. **RESOLUTION NO. 6111:** Adopting Assessment Roll for Water/Sewer Deferred Assessment Fees (Connections completed in 2017)
13. **RESOLUTION NO. 6112:** Accepting Enclosed Pedestrian Concourse (EPC) Construction
14. **RESOLUTION NO. 6113:** Setting the Public Hearing Date to Adopt the Birchmont Drive Reassessment Roll (2017)

**Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

#### **CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA**

Reed Olson, 711 14<sup>th</sup> Street NW, presented the City with a second invoice for an individual who was evicted from Northland Apartments. Discussion continued regarding homelessness in Bemidji.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS****Boys & Girls Club -**

**Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission** – Kierra Shegrud, BYA representative, reported that the fall shindig did not happen but they will try again this winter.

**POLICE RESERVE OFFICERS ~ Swearing In Ceremony**

Chief Mastin stated that this is the fourth year of this program. Since inception, the Police Reserve Officers have volunteered over 10,000 hours to our community, which is equivalent to nearly \$250,000 to our citizens. Many of our reserve officers have risen to the top of hiring lists. He stated that he is proud of their achievements and the impact that this program has had in our community.

Chief Mastin introduced the Officers and City Clerk Murphy swore in the following new Police Reserve Officers: Andrew Johnson, Miranda Snyder, David Perrault, Joseph Stenger, Jorge Mendoza, Rachel Kniss, and Karen Zierden.

**NEW BUSINESS****Bond Sale**

Eischens stated that the City refinances its sales tax bonds, used to finance a portion of the Sanford Center construction costs, to a 30-year term in January 2011, with interest rates ranging from 3% to 6%, including a prepayment date of February 2021. He stated that due to favorable low interest rates, refinancing these bonds would be a significant long-term financial benefit for the City. He noted that the projected savings over the remaining life is an estimated \$14 million.

Myron Knudson, PFM, stated that the bond sale had great results receiving eleven bids. He recommended the City accept the bid from Bank of America. Discussion followed regarding the City's bond rating from Moody's.

**RESOLUTION NO. 6114: Awarding Sale of \$47,395,000 General Obligation Sales Tax Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2017A Fixing the Form and Specifications Thereof, Providing for Their Payment to Bank of America was offered by was offered by Councilmember Erickson, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Larson was passed by unanimous vote.**

**Street/Sidewalk Closure Request**

Mathews reviewed an application from the owners of the former American Legion and their contractor requesting that the sidewalk and parking spaces be closed from approximately November 10, 2017 through March 31, 2018 for construction. City staff have reviewed the request and have set forth the following conditions:

1. Retro reflectivity on fencing, stop sign placement with unimpeded sight lines and sidewalk closure signage locations.
2. All signage should come from a MMUTCD source and be maintained daily by the general contractor's resources.
3. Erosion control measures as follows:
  - a. Protection for inlets upstream and downstream
  - b. Construction washout procedures
  - c. Snow removal
    - i. Removed at their own expense
    - ii. Cannot be piled onsite
    - iii. No construction debris mixed in
    - iv. The city will allow the use of downtown snow dump site located in the railroad corridor between Park Avenue NW and Irvine Avenue NW. If debris is found in the snow, use of the site will not be allowed.
4. Staff will be working with the contractor regarding the collection of escrow funds relating to stormwater, snow removal and damage.

Mathews stated he has spoken with the Downtown Business Authority who have no issue with the request. Gray stated that the Street Superintendent has spoken to the contractor regarding snow removal and the conditions.

**Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Plemel, approving the temporary closure of the sidewalk and parking spaces next to 217 Minnesota Avenue (former American Legion) from November 10, 2017 through March 31, 2018, with the conditions set forth by City staff. Motion carried unanimously.**

2022 Transportation Alternatives Program

City Engineer Gray stated that each year the Minnesota Department of Transportation solicits applications for Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). This is a federally funded program that pays up to 80% of the construction cost of eligible projects, i.e., bike trails, sidewalks, Safe Routes to School and historical projects. He reviewed past projects that the city received funding. He stated that the grant application is an extensive process and only one project should be submitted to MnDOT. He suggested the Council consider one of the following:

1. Midway Drive Bridge Project
2. 23<sup>rd</sup> Street & Middle School Drive Trail – this project would construct a 10-foot wide multi-use bituminous trail from Bemidji City Park to the Bemidji Middle School

**Motion by hellquist, seconded by Meehlhause, directing staff to submit a full application to MnDOT for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and Middle School Drive Trail project. Motion carried unanimously.**

Eelpout Event

Council members discussed the proposed Eelpout Festival. Mathews stated that at this time the event organizers might be withdrawing the request.

**RESOLUTION NO. 6115: Opposing Proposal for the International Eelpout Festival Being Held on Lake Bemidji and Opposing the Issuance of a Beltrami County Event Permit to Event Sponsor was offered by was offered by Councilmember Erickson, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Meehlhause was passed by unanimous vote.**

ORDINANCES

**AN ORDINANCE** Amending Chapter 12, Article XXV, of the Bemidji City Code Relating to Lodging Tax was given a first reading.

**AN ORDINANCE** Amending an Uncoded Section of Bemidji City Code Pertaining to an Alley Vacation (Wagner’s Third Addition to Bemidji) was given a first reading.

**AN ORDINANCE** Amending Chapter 10 entitled Buildings and Building Regulations of the Bemidji City Code by Adding a Section Relating to Manufactured Homes and Manufactured Home Parks was given a first reading.

Fee Schedule

Pursuant to published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input regarding Amending the Bemidji City Code, Adopting an Amended Fee Schedule for 2018. Mayor Albrecht opened the Public Hearing at 7:14 p.m., hearing no comments the public hearing was closed.

**AN ORDINANCE** Amending the Bemidji City Code, Adopting an Amended Fee Schedule for 2018 was given a second reading.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Monday, Nov. 13            5:30 p.m.    Work Session – Hospitality Tax – Sanford Wellness Center
- Monday, Nov. 20           6:00 p.m.    Council Meeting

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

- Council members provided updates on current events and meetings.

PROPERTY DISCUSSION

**Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Hellquist, to close this meeting in accordance with Minnesota Statute Section 13D.05, Subd. 3 for the purpose of reviewing confidential or non-public appraisal data relating to the acquisition of real property, as well as to develop or consider offers or counter-offers for the purchase of said property. All voted aye. The meeting closed at 7:20 p.m.**

The following were in attendance: City Council, City Manager, City Engineer, Finance Director, City Clerk, Bob Kiewatt.

**Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Johnson, to reopen the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Motion carried.**

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, motion by Hellquist, seconded by Johnson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay M. Murphy  
City Clerk