

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – November 7, 2011

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 7, 2011 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, Thompson Absent: Negard

Staff Present: City Manager John Chatten, City Attorney Alan Felix, City Clerk Kay Murphy

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

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

MINUTES

Minutes of the October 17, 2011 regular meeting and October 17 special work session were presented for approval. **Motion by Waldhausen, seconded by Albrecht, to approve the minutes as prepared. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Claims Submitted by Finance Officer in the amount of \$1,485,506.68
2. Claims Submitted by the Sanford Center in the amount of \$213,484.38
3. Miscellaneous Business License(s) Renewals for 2012
4. 1 Day Temporary Consumption & Display Permit – Chamber Event on 12/13/2011
5. Awarded Bid to Sparky's for Demolition of Structure at 618 4th Street NW
6. **RESOLUTION NO. 5725:** Adopting Assessment Roll for Water/Sewer Deferred Assessment Fees (Connections Completed in 2011)
7. **RESOLUTION NO. 5726:** Committing Specific Revenue Sources in Special Revenue Funds
8. Updated Fund Balance Policy
9. **RESOLUTION NO. 5727:** Authorizing an Agreement Between the Minnesota Dept of Transportation and the City of Bemidji Appointing the Commissioner of Transportation as the City's Agent
10. Appointment of Melissa Pond to the Library Board (term 1/31/2014)
11. Appointment of David Lalone to Housing Appeals Board (term 1/31/2014)
12. Adopted Changes to the Personnel Policies
13. Travel Authorization: GCMC Fall Conference – Nov. 16-18, Fergus Falls – Johnson, Larson

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

No one appeared.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – Lainy Sewall, BYA representative, stated that the Youth Advisory Commission supports the resolution authorizing the City of Bemidji to participate in the Minnesota GreenStep Cities Program. She reported on upcoming events.

BSU Student Senate – Dana Bjorke reported on Senate activities. She stated that the Student Senate has some concerns about the relocation of Ward 1 polling place as it is convenient for most college students. City Clerk Murphy stated that she is proposing another polling place due to the accessibility for elderly voters and lack of air conditioning during the August primary.

Librarian's Report - Paul Ericsson, Branch Manager, reviewed November events at the Library.

PRESENTATION

Brett Cease, Bemidji Sustainability Committee & Mn GreenCrops member, reviewed the advantages and assistance available to the City by becoming a member of the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program. He stated that Mn GreenStep Cities is a state-wide action-oriented voluntary program that provides a framework leading to the city's implementation of sustainable best practices that focus on creating healthy, resilient and self-reliant communities. He further stated that City's involvement would not commit it to any financial obligation or any type of mandates. In order to be recognized the City would need to meet a number of requirements called best practices. The City could fulfill these practices on its own schedule and could end its involvement at any time. He stated that after consulting with a number of City staff, and other community members, the City has already met approximately half of the best practice requirements.

Johnson asked if there could potentially be any incentives by joining, i.e., potential to receive grants. Cease responded that there are certain economic incentives or grants available but not necessarily because of the program.

Waldhausen stated that the Sustainability Committee has been working on this for several months and he endorsed the idea.

Hellquist stated that he would like to hear from department heads and what the cost, if any, would be to meet the "best practices".

Chattin stated that philosophically it is good and aims the City in the right direction. He recommended the Mr. Cease sit down with staff to vet out the best practice requirements further. He commented that when the City received a grant to do energy assistance on four buildings, City staff spent considerable hours compiling information for the consultants. He further stated that if the Council adopts the resolution, they will need to identify what assets it is willing to put toward this project.

Albrecht stated that sometimes the benefits are not quantifiable. She further commented that the City has good volunteers in the Sustainability Committee.

Cease stated that he would be available as Bemidji's GreenStep coordinator to provide oversight and communication, minimize city staff time and be responsible for the guidance of Bemidji's best practices. He stated that the Mn GreenStep Cities program is another avenue for finding ways for our City to be responsible with the taxpayer's resources while providing a legacy in reducing our energy costs and fostering new avenues for economic development.

Council consensus was that Mr. Cease meet with the City staff to discuss the program further in order to provide more information on potential cost and staff involvement.

ORDINANCES

AN ORDINANCE Amending an Uncoded Section of the Bemidji City Code (Authorizing the Sale of Real Property) (Gemmel Avenue Lot) was given a first reading.

Pursuant to published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input regarding Adopting an Amended Fee Schedule for 2012. Mayor Larson opened the Public Hearing at 7:54 p.m., hearing no comments the public hearing was closed.

AN ORDINANCE Adopting an Amended Fee Schedule for 2012 was given a second reading.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Monday, November 14 5:30 p.m. Work Session – CIP/Utility Cashflow & Taxable Bond Refinancing
- Monday, November 21 6:30 p.m. Special Work Session – Final Parks Plan
- Monday, November 21 7:00 p.m. Regular City Council Meeting

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

- Council members and staff provided updates on current events and meetings.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Hellquist, seconded by Thompson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay M. Murphy
City Clerk