

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA
Special Work Session – Thursday, December 13, 2018

Pursuant to due call and notice, a special work session of the City Council of the City of Bemidji, Beltrami County, Minnesota, was held on Thursday, December 13, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of City Hall, Mayor Albrecht presiding.

Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Albrecht, Meehlhause, Erickson, Larson. Absent: Hellquist, Johnson, Lehmann

Staff Present: City Manager Nate Mathews, Executive Director Jeff Kossow, Operations Manager Robert Anderson, City Attorney Al Felix, Finance Director Ron Eischens, City Clerk Michelle Miller

Mayor Albrecht stated the purpose of the work session was to consider the capital improvement requests from the Sanford Center.

2019 Sanford Center Capital Improvement Requests

Mathews stated that the city currently has \$804,000 set aside for capital improvement needs for the Sanford Center. Albrecht stated that the Sanford Center Board approved the recommendation to fund the requests as its November meeting.

Anderson and Kossow presented revised capital improvement requests for 2019 listed in order of priority. There are some items not included in the request but will be phased in when funds are available. The criteria used in determining priorities are: (1) safety and security, (2) return on investment and (3) guest experience. The total cost of the requests is \$859,625 resulting in a shortfall of \$55,325.


Based on the 50 year capital improvement needs previously presented to council, in order to fund those needs, the city would need to set aside \$720,000 per year versus the \$180,000 currently being allocated. Council discussed the desperate need to implement a hospitality tax to help pay for those expenses. This burden cannot continue to fall on the property taxes. Council and staff will need to discuss the hospitality tax strategy in 2019.

Motion by Erickson, seconded by Larson authorizing staff to request bids and quotes to fund as many of the capital improvement projects as possible. Motion carried.

Adjourn

There being no further business, motion by Erickson, seconded by Meehlhause, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Michelle R. Miller
City Clerk