

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – December 19, 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, December 19, 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, Negard, Thompson

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

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

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

MINUTES

Minutes of the December 5, 2011 regular meeting, December 5, 2011 Special BEDA meeting and December 12, 2011 work session were presented for approval. **Motion by Negard, 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. Hellquist requested that the item regarding the letter of support for Minnesota Design Team Visit Application be removed for discussion. **Motion by Johnson, seconded by Thompson, to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:**

1. Claims submitted by the Finance Officer in the total amount of \$788,895.01
2. Claims submitted by the Sanford Center in the total amount of \$171,442.33
3. Miscellaneous Business License Renewals for 2011
4. Liquor License Renewals for 2012 and Off Sale Beer License for 2012
5. Reapportionment of Special Assessments – Alamar Properties, LLC (Korpi)
6. **RESOLUTION NO. 5731:** Approving the Agreement between the City and Law Enforcement Labor Services Representing Police Patrol – Local 126 for the Calendar Year 2012
7. **RESOLUTION NO. 5732:** Approving the Agreement between the City and UFCW Local #1116 Representing the Liquor Store Employee Bargaining Unit for the Calendar Year 2012
8. **RESOLUTION NO. 5733:** Approving the Agreement between the City and IUOE, Local 49 Representing the Public Works, Parks, Streets, Sanitation and Engineering Employee Bargaining Unit for the Calendar Year 2012
9. **RESOLUTION NO. 5734:** Establishing Non-Union Salaries and City Pay Scale for 2012
10. **RESOLUTION NO. 5735:** Ordering A Hazardous Excavation to be Filled at 625 Robin Lane SW
11. Purchase of a Copier - Public Works Facility (North Country Business Products - \$9,923.34)
12. Purchase of Refuse Containers – Refuse Dept. (Cascade - \$17,859 plus tax & freight)
13. Purchase of a Used Cat 420D Backhoe Loader – Street Dept. (Ziegler Equipment - \$49,714.20)

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

No one appeared.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – Ivan Smith, BYA representative, updated the Council on BYAC upcoming events.

BSU Student Senate – Joe Moubry, BSU Student Senate representative, reported on BSU events.

PUBLIC HEARING

Capital Improvement Plan – 2012-2016

Pursuant to published notice a public hearing was held regarding input on the 2012 to 2016 Capital Improvement Plan. Mayor Larson opened the Public Hearing at 7:13 p.m., hearing no comments the public hearing was closed.

RESOLUTION NO. 5736: Adoption of the 2012-2016 Capital Improvement & Equipment Replacement Plan was offered by Councilmember Hellquist, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Thompson, was passed by unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Chief Bemidji Statue Update

Mitch Blessing, representative of the Chief Bemidji Statue committee, provided an overview of the artist selection for the new statue of Chief Bemidji. The Chief Bemidji Artist Selection Committee met on October 28 and November 10, 2011, to review twenty-three applications, ten from Minnesota and thirteen from ten other states. He stated that the goal of the committee was to find an artist who could best provide “a permanent realistic statue of exceptional quality.” In selecting the three finalists the committee responded most to the “style” of each artist’s work and developed a strong preference for a very detailed, realistic statue. The finalists represent artists each of whom have 20-30 years of experience in making life-size or larger bronze statues in a realistic style. They are as follows: Ann LaRose (Tucson, Arizona), Steven Whyte (Carmel, California), and Gareth Curtiss (Olympia, Washington).

Motion by Waldhausen, seconded by Thompson, authorizing the Chief Bemidji Committee to contract with the three finalists for Chief Bemidji Statue design proposals. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Letter of Support

Mayor Larson stated that the Joint Planning Board has asked the Council for a Letter of Support to make application to the Minnesota Design Team for a visit to Bemidji. The purpose of the Minnesota Design Team is to help Minnesota communities plan their future with grassroots involvement, volunteerism and quality design. He noted that the cost of this event will be funded from the Greater Bemidji Joint Planning Board’s budget.

Motion by Albrecht, seconded by Thompson, to approve the submittal of a Letter of Support for the Minnesota Design Team Visit Application. Motion carried unanimously.

City Manager’s Performance Review

Mayor Larson read the following summary of the Manager’s Performance Review which was conducted on December 12, 2011:

The following comments/concerns regarding Mr. Chattin’s performance:

- Shed the best light possible on annexation.
- Be cautious in expressing opinion(s).
- Be sure to present both sides of issues, i.e., 2 a.m. issue.

The Council recognized Mr. Chattin for the following achievements:

- Implementation of the Quality Neighborhood Initiative Project;
- Budget adjustments to deal with loss of LGA;
- Phase I annexation; and
- Securing a hotel partner for the event center.

Consensus of the Council was that Mr. Chattin’s performance over the past year was satisfactory, particularly with marked improvement in communication with the Council.

Tax Levy

RESOLUTION NO. 5737: Approving the Final 2011 Tax Levy Collectible in 2012 in the amount of \$3,874,766 was offered by Councilmember Thompson, who moved its adoption and upon due second by Councilmember Hellquist was passed by unanimous vote.

Final Budget

RESOLUTION NO. 5738: Approving the Final 2012 Budget was offered by Councilmember Hellquist, who moved its adoption and upon due second by Councilmember Negard was passed by unanimous vote.

2012 Sanford Center Budget and Business Plan

Roger Swanson, Venuworks Executive Director, stated that he and his staff are working on events for 2012 that will meet the City's needs. Discussion continued regarding summer events. It was noted that a new position for 2012 will be devoted to marketing and booking conventions and conferences.

Motion by Negard, seconded by Thompson, approving the 2012 Sanford Center Budget and Business Plan. Motion carried unanimously.

Lake Bemidji West Shore Trail Lighting

Gray stated that a year ago BSU representatives requested that the City consider installing lights along the Lake Bemidji West Shore Trail. BSU has committed to fund 50% of the project up to \$20,000. The project is not in the 2012 budget and funding for the estimated \$20,000 City share would have to come from reserves.

Mayor Larson stated he would be abstaining as EAPC will be working with Karvakko Engineering.

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Waldhausen, authorizing the City Engineer to enter into a professional services contract with Karvakko Engineering in the amount of \$5,600 and to receive quotes for the project. Motion carried with the following vote: Ayes: Albrecht, Waldhausen, Thompson, Hellquist, Negard, Johnson. Abstain: Larson.

East-West Trail Grant

Marcia Larson, Parks & Recreation Director, stated that the District 2 Area Transportation Partnership (ATP 2) has announced the solicitation for enhancement projects for the years 2014 and 2015. The East-West Trail is approximately 1.6 miles which was the "old" Soo Line Rail corridor and would continue the trail built in 2008 and connect the downtown to 5th Street. The construction costs for this project are estimated at \$510,000 plus \$65,000 engineering costs for a total project cost of \$575,000. The East-West Trail was identified in the 2011 Parks, Trails and Open Spaces Plan as a high priority Destination Trail and the Parks & Trails Commission has recommended the City submit a grant to the program for the construction of the East-West Trail. She stated that the required local match for the project is 20% of the construction and 100% of engineering services. The City's local match would be approximately \$167,000. At this time there is not a specific funding source available to meet the grant match requirement of \$167,000. If the Council wants staff to move forward with the application process, the match requirement will be added to the Capital Improvement Plan next year for financing in 2015.

Eischens stated that funds for the grant match may require increasing property taxes or reprioritization of other capital projects.

Gray stated that the City has turned back one grant (Old Midway Bridge) and to turn back another could hinder future grant opportunities. He noted there may be some Legacy funds available but that is not a guarantee.

Hellquist stated that he would not be in favor of increasing property taxes for the project.

RESOLUTION NO. 5739: Accepting Responsibility as the Sponsoring Agency and Authorize Submission of the Transportation Enhancement Grant was offered by Councilmember Albrecht and upon due second by Councilmember Negard was passed with the following vote: Ayes: Albrecht, Waldhausen, Thompson, Larson, Negard, Johnson. Nays: Hellquist.

2012 Street Renewal Project

Gray reviewed the feasibility report for the 2012 Street Renewal Project. The street that was selected was Lake Avenue from 1st Street SE to Roosevelt Road SE. Lake Avenue was selected primarily due to its poor surface. The total project cost is estimated to be \$976,467. He stated that as staff looked into the assessment roll it was noted that 10 of the 27 affected Lake Avenue parcels were assessed \$13,673 for utility improvements as part of the Southeast 40 Project that was completed in 2006. Gray stated that although he feels that there are many

good reasons to improve Lake Avenue there are too many assessment and annexation issues at this time to reconstruct in 2012 and recommended that it be delayed a couple of years.

Gray recommended that new streets be studied for the 2012 Street Renewal Project and those segments are: Miles Avenue SE (Roosevelt to 3rd), Wilson Avenue SE (4th to 3rd) and 19th Street NW (Park to Delton). He noted that both Miles Avenue and Wilson Avenue are dirt roads that should be paved. Miles Avenue is the main access point to Nymore Park, which includes numerous facilities for residents.

RESOLUTION NO. 5740: Ordering a New Feasibility Report for the 2012 Street Renewal Project was offered by Councilmember Hellquist and upon due second by Councilmember Albrecht was passed by unanimous vote.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Tuesday, January 3 7:00 p.m. Regular City Council Meeting
- Monday, January 9 5:30 p.m. Work Session – Hospitality Tax Discussion
- Tuesday, January 17 7:00 p.m. Regular City Council Meeting

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

- Councilmembers 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 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Kay M. Murphy
City Clerk