

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA
Special Meeting/Work Session – December 19, 2011

Pursuant to due call and notice, a special meeting/work session of the City Council of the City of Bemidji, Beltrami County, Minnesota, was held on Monday, December 19, 2011, at 6:00 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 Chatten, City Attorney Alan Felix, City Clerk Kay Murphy

Mayor Larson stated that the purpose of the special work session was to review December 7 LGU meeting and the proposed redistricting plans.

City Clerk Murphy reviewed two plans for redistricting the wards with the Council. She stated that both are based on the assumption that annexation will be occurring. Both plans adjust the population utilizing the 2010 census block data. She stated that Plan A adjusts the wards lines while keeping the wards in the current locations thus having less impact on the voter. Plan B expands Ward 1 into Ward 2 and Ward 2 has moved to the Northwest corner of the City. She stated she has no preference but visually Plan B does look better and both plans allow for population growth to the wards that will be affected by future annexations.

In addition to realigning the wards, Murphy stated that she has been looking at new polling locations for Ward 1 and Ward 2. The current location at John Glas Fieldhouse has accessibility issues for voters and there is no air conditioning during the August primary. She will be proposing that Ward 1 polling location be moved to the First Lutheran Church and has received confirmation from the Church. Ward 2 will require a new location if Plan B is selected and Murphy has received confirmation from the National Guard Armory.

Council then discussed Phase I annexation and whether to annex all areas as proposed. The Council consensus was that the City will move forward with the annexation in January but they would like further discussion with Bemidji Township and Northern Township regarding the proposed boundaries for Phase 2 and Phase 3.

Motion by Hellquist, seconded by Albrecht, directing staff to prepare the redistricting Ordinance utilizing Plan B. All voted aye. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Kay M. Murphy
City Clerk