

# CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

## BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

### Regular Meeting – December 2, 2013

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 2, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, Mayor Albrecht presiding.

Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Albrecht, Meehlhause, Johnson, Hellquist, Olson, Erickson, 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

Mayor Albrecht proclaimed the days of December 5 and 6 as "Radioathon to End Child Abuse".

#### **AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA**

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

#### **MINUTES**

The following minutes were presented for approval:

Council Meeting	November 18, 2013
Sp BEDA Meeting	November 18, 2013
Work Session	November 12, 2013

**Motion by Erickson, seconded by Thompson, to approve the minutes as prepared. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

1. Claims submitted by the Finance Officer in the total amount of \$619,833.34
2. Miscellaneous Business License Renewals for 2013
3. Final Reading of Off/On Sale Beer License Renewals for 2014
4. Liquor, Sunday Liquor, Wine and Club License Renewals for 2014
5. Temporary On-Sale Liquor License – Chamber Event – 1/23/14
6. Budget Amendment No. 4
7. Recommended Appointment to Charter Commission – Caleb Newman
8. Approved 2014 Prosecution Services Agreement

**Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

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

No one appeared.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – Councilor Meehlhause updated the Council on BYAC activities. He stated that over 200 cards were made at the Holiday for Heros event.

Librarian's Report - Paul Ericsson, Branch Manager, reported on problems regarding the library's heating system and upcoming programs.

#### **TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING**

Pursuant to published notice a public hearing was held regarding input on the 2013 Truth in Taxation. Mayor Albrecht opened the Public Hearing at 7:24 p.m.

Finance Director Ron Eischens stated the purpose of the Truth in Taxation Hearing was to review the 2013 City budget and tax levy and noted that it is required by State law.

Eischens stated that the Council will approve the final budget and final levy at their regular meeting on December 16, 2013. He noted the following budget changes from 2013: \$110,000 staff cost of living increase; \$50,000 increase for required payroll tax/PERA and

workers compensation costs; \$31,000 in electricity costs for street lights; \$24,000 for an additional library staff position contingent on County support; \$20,000 for possible Joint Planning Board contribution increase; \$15,000 for increased City arena maintenance; \$14,000 capital equipment needs and \$13,000 for internship program costs.

The City levy decreases by \$7,000 or .2% due to reduced bond payments. Eischens mentioned the City will no longer pay state sales tax beginning January 1, 2014, which is projected to save approximately \$165,000 annually. 50% of this savings benefits the General Fund budget and the remaining 50% benefitting the utility funds. The savings was used to provide a 2.5% increase to non-personnel related operating expenses.

Eischens reviewed why property taxes vary from year to year, how city taxes are spent and other charts comparing Bemidji with like cities.

Mayor Albrecht closed the Public Hearing at 7:35 p.m.

**ORDINANCES**

**Motion by Hellquist, seconded by Meehlhause, accepting the revised Ordinance Amending an Uncoded Section of the Bemidji City Code Pertaining to Street Vacation (Portion of Link Street SW). Motion carried unanimously.**

**ORDINANCE NO. 95, 3<sup>RD</sup> SERIES**, AN ORDINANCE Amending an Uncoded Section of the Bemidji City Code Pertaining to Street Vacation (Portion of Link Street SW) was given a final reading and passed by unanimous vote.

**Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Thompson, approving publication of a summary of Ordinance No. 95, 3<sup>rd</sup> Series. Motion carried unanimously.**

**ORDINANCE NO. 96, 3<sup>RD</sup> SERIES**, AN ORDINANCE Vacating a Portion of an Alley and Street (2<sup>nd</sup> Mill Park Addition) was given a final reading and passed by unanimous vote.

**Motion by Olson, seconded by Thompson, approving publication of a summary of Ordinance No. 96, 3<sup>rd</sup> Series. Motion carried unanimously.**

**ORDINANCE NO. 97, 3<sup>RD</sup> SERIES**, AN ORDINANCE Amending Chapter 14 of the Bemidji City Code Adding Article IX Relating to enforcement of the Statutory Prohibition of the Use and Sale of Coal Tar Sealant Products was given a final reading and passed by unanimous vote.

**Motion by Erickson, seconded by Thompson, approving publication of a summary of Ordinance No. 97, 3<sup>rd</sup> Series. Motion carried unanimously.**

**UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS**

- Monday, December 9            5:30 p.m.            No meeting
- Monday, December 16        5:30 p.m.            Sp Work Session – Senator Saxhaug
- Monday, December 16        7:00 p.m.            Council Meeting

**COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT**

- Council members provided updates on current events and meetings.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, motion by Olson, seconded by Thompson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
 Kay M. Murphy  
 City Clerk