

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA
Regular Meeting – December 21, 2015

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 21, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, Mayor Albrecht presiding.

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

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

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

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

MINUTES

The following minutes were presented for approval:

Council Meeting	December 7, 2015
Work Session	December 14, 2015

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval. Mayor Albrecht and Councilor Olson requested travel authorization to attend the Leadership Conference in January 22-23. **Motion by Hellquist, seconded by Olson, to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:**

1. Claims Submitted by Finance Officer in the amount of \$558,631.47
2. Claims Submitted by VenuWorks for the Sanford Center in the amount of \$107,304.82
3. Business Licenses Renewals for 2016
4. Second Reading of Off/On Sale Beer License Renewals for 2016
5. Liquor and Sunday Liquor License Renewals for 2016
6. Declared Chairs as Surplus – City Hall
7. Reallocation of 2015 CIP Dollars and Purchase of a Shelter for Cameron Park from Heim Handcrafted Log Homes for \$20,000
8. **RESOLUTION NO. 5983a:** Accepting Donations – Parks Departments
9. Ratify/Approve City's Participation in Project Lenders' Cash Management Agreement in Relation to City's Revolving Loan Fund Loan to Wayzata-Bemidji Hospitality Associates, LLC
10. Travel Authorization – 2016 Leadership Conference - Brooklyn Center, Jan 22-23 – Johnson, Albrecht, Olson

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

No one appeared.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Capital Improvement Plan

Pursuant to published notice, a public hearing was held regarding input on the 2016 to 2020 Capital Improvement Plan. Mayor Albrecht opened the Public Hearing at 6:05 p.m. and hearing no comments, closed the hearing at 6:06 p.m.

RESOLUTION NO. 5984: Adopting the 2016-2020 Capital Improvement Plan was offered by Councilmember Johnson, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Olson was passed by unanimous vote.

2016 Street Renewal Project

City Engineer Gray stated that on December 16, 2015 there was a neighborhood meeting for affected residents and attended by approximately 10 residents. He stated that based upon phone calls, the biggest issue, other than assessments, will be the proposed sidewalk on the north side of 26th Street.

Pursuant to published notice, a public hearing was held regarding input on the 2016 Street Renewal Project #16-01. Mayor Albrecht opened the Public Hearing at 6:11 p.m.

The following individuals addressed the Council:

- Pete Hoffman, 2603 Birchmont Drive NE, presented a petition, signed by eight property owners, in opposition of the proposed sidewalk along 26th Street. Mr. Hoffman stated that he is concerned that the sidewalk will put his three white pines at risk.
- Kurt Wayne, 3712 Minnesota Avenue, stated that it is important to build sidewalks that can improve pedestrian transportation. It meets one of the City's identified goal of providing safety and increase physical activity.
- Tim Duffy, 315 26th Street, spoke in favor the sidewalk and believed it will increase safety on this busy street.
- Melinda Neville, 111 Rice Street, spoke in favor of the sidewalk as it is on a direct route to BSU and Cameron Park. Ms. Neville read a message from Natalie Grille who was unable to attend but was also in support of the sidewalk.

Councilor Johnson inquired about the amount of digging for the sidewalk. Gray responded that there is some but it is uncertain what the impact would be on the trees. Gray further stated that he could look at moving the street one-foot south thereby moving the sidewalk further from the white pines.

Mary Lou Marchand, 26th & Birchmont, stated she has concerns about losing a foot in front of her home, as her driveway is only 12 feet long.

Mayor Albrecht closed the Public Hearing at 6:25 p.m.

RESOLUTION NO. 5985: Ordering the 2016 Street Renewal Project and Authorizing Preparation of Plans and Specifications was offered by Councilmember Hellquist, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Olson was passed by unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS2015 Tax Levy Collectible in 2016

RESOLUTION NO. 5986: Approving Final 2015 Tax Levy Collectible in 2016 in the amount of \$4,826,915 was offered by Councilmember Erickson, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Johnson was passed by unanimous vote.

Final 2016 Budget

RESOLUTION NO. 5987: Approving Final 2016 Budget was offered by Councilmember Hellquist, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Erickson was passed by unanimous vote.

VenuWorks Business Plan and 2016 Annual Budget

Curtis Webb, Executive Director, reported that the deficit through the end of November is approximately \$276,000, which is lower than last year. He stated that VenuWorks budgeted \$349,288 for 2015. The City budgets \$400,000 for operational deficits. He reviewed the following goals for 2016:

- Actively pursue economic driving events by meeting fact to face with event planners.
- Increase awareness of events at the Sanford Center utilizing several marketing mediums.
- Engage BSU's Marketing Assistance and Research Solutions (MARS) to conduct a visitors/hotel study for users of the Sanford Center.
- Engage community partners with monthly meetings to discuss conference options and future bookings.
- Explore several structural changes that can help provide flexibility to sell more without affecting the concourse flow.
- Continue to promote the True North campaign and keep it front and center.
- Assist BSU athletics, wherever possible, to add to their success.

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Larson, approving the 2016 Sanford Center Business Plan and Budget. Motion carried unanimously.

Union Contracts for 2016

City Manager Mathews stated that all union contracts have been successfully negotiated and approved by union stewards and business agents within the parameters set by the City Council including:

- Cost of living increases of 2% in 2016, 2.25% in 2017 and 2.5% in 2018. Certain positions received a pay grade increase, resulting in additional pay increases based on the results of the Springsted study.
- \$90 per month increase towards City cafeteria benefit contribution for employees to purchase health and all other benefits for 2016, 2017 and 2018 bringing the City contribution in line with Beltrami County, which has a similar cafeteria plan design.
- Minor language changes for items such as clothing/boot allowance, shift differential, field training officers, and jury duty pay but none with significant financial impact to the City budget.

RESOLUTION NO. 5988: Approving the Agreement between the City and the Firefighter Union (2016-2018) was offered by Councilmember Olson, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Johnson was passed by unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 5989: Approving the Agreement between the City and Law Enforcement Labor Services Representing Police Patrol – Local 126 (2016-2018) was offered by Councilmember Erickson, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Olson was passed by unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 5990: Approving the Agreement between the City and Law Enforcement Labor Services Representing Sergeants Local No. 227 Employee Bargaining Unit (2016-2018) was offered by Councilmember Johnson, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Erickson was passed by unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 5991: Approving the Agreement between the City and UFCW Local #1116 Representing the Liquor Store Employee Bargaining Unit (2016-2018) was offered by Councilmember Erickson, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Johnson was passed by unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 5992: Approving the Agreement between the City and IUOE, Local 49 Representing the Public Works, Parks, Streets, and Utility Employee Bargaining Unit (2016-2018) was offered by Councilmember Olson, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Erickson was passed by unanimous vote.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Hellquist, approving the Operating Engineers Local #49 Health and Welfare Fund Bargaining Premium Account Participation Agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 5993: Establishing Non-Union Salaries and City Pay Scale for 2016 was offered by Councilmember Erickson, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Johnson was passed by unanimous vote.

ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE NO. 120, 3RD SERIES, AN ORDINANCE Amending Chapter 24, Article III, Division I, Section 24.52 entitled “Use of Skateboards, Roller Skates and Roller Blades” of the Bemidji City Code was given a final reading and passed by unanimous vote.

Motion by Hellquist, seconded by Larson, approving publication of a summary of Ordinance No. 120, 3rd Series. Motion carried unanimously.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Monday, January 4 6:00 p.m. Regular Council Meeting
- Monday, January 4 6:00 p.m. Annual BEDA Meeting
- Monday, January 11 5:30 p.m. Work Session – Rako Property offer (Closed)

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

- Council members provided updates on current events and meetings.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Hellquist, seconded by Olson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kay M. Murphy".

Kay M. Murphy
City Clerk