

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – December 3, 2018

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 3, 2018 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, Meehlhause, Lehmann, Larson. Absent: Hellquist, Johnson, Erickson

Staff Present: City Manager Nate Mathews, Finance Director Ron Eischens, City Attorney Alan Felix, Public Works Director/City Engineer Craig Gray Parks and Recreation Director Marcia Larson, City Clerk Michelle Miller

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

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

MINUTES

The following minutes were presented for approval:

Work Session: November 13, 2018
Council Meeting: November 19, 2018

Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Larson, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Claims Submitted by Finance Officer in the amount of \$477,192.43
2. Claims Submitted by VenuWorks for the Sanford Center in the amount of \$59,471.94
3. Business Licenses for 2019
4. Liquor, Sunday Liquor and Wine License Renewals for 2019
5. Final Reading of On and Off Sale Beer License Renewals for 2019
6. Nominate Joint Planning Commission Member for Reappointment – Jeremy Berg
7. Nominate Joint Planning Commission Member for Reappointment – Tim Faver
8. **RESOLUTION NO. 6191:** Approving 2019 City Pay Scale and Change to City Benefit Contribution
9. Approve 2018 Budget Modification #3
10. **RESOLUTION NO. 6192:** Resolution Approving State of Minnesota JPA with the City of Bemidji on Behalf of its City Attorney and Police Department

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

The following individuals spoke about the police shooting and the need for transparency in the investigation and for better race relationships within the community:

- Audrey Thayer, 1904 15th Street NW
- Michael Lane, 1012 Birchmont Dr NE
- Nicole Buckanaga, 2115 Harrison Ct SW
- Amos Laduke, Bena
- Adrianna Goodwin, 9411 23rd St SE

Linda Kingery, of the Citizens Climate Lobby, reported that the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act bill was introduced to the House which was co-sponsored by three Republican Representatives and three Democrat Representatives. She is hopeful that a companion bill will be introduced into the Senate in the next few months.

John Heningsgard, 1520 Bixby Avenue, spoke about the snow and ice-packed sidewalks which makes it near impossible for people to use them.

Linda Lemmer, 155 Gemmel Avenue, spoke about the downtown parking problem and the need to discuss the idea of a parking ramp so employees can park in the ramp and shoppers can park closer to the businesses.

REPORTS

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – Victoria Roy reported on member recruitment and volunteering by the current members.

PUBLIC HEARING – TRUTH IN TAXATION

Finance Director Eischens reviewed the 2019 City budget and tax levy. The increase in new construction value is projected to be 2.2%. The county anticipates a slight increase in commercial values. The total budget is \$38 million, which is an increase of \$4.5 million, or 13%, over last year. The biggest contributors to that increase includes \$1.7 million in street construction projects and \$3 million in the utility capital improvement projects including a new well and WWTF upgrades. The 2019 budget is a deficit budget due to capital purchases. The budget fluctuates year to year from a surplus to a deficit because of these types of purchases or investments. The proposed 2019 tax levy saw an increase of \$115,000 or 2% from 2018. The state average is 6.2%. The 2% levy increase will result in a tax rate increase of 1.6%. The exception to that is the Phase II Northern Township annexed properties. Eischens presented considerable information regarding the budget and levy. The final budget will be adopted by council at the December 17 council meeting.

Pursuant to published notice a public hearing was held regarding input on the 2019 Truth-in-Taxation. Mayor Albrecht opened the Public Hearing at 6:54 p.m.

- John Freise, 142 Anne Street NW, commented that his property value increased by 30% and the tax rate increased by 65%.
- John Heningsgard, expressed concern regarding the budget for the Sanford Center.

After hearing no other comments, the Mayor closed the Public Hearing at 7:03 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

2019 Street Renewal Project

Sam Anderson, Assistant City Engineer, stated that the feasibility study outlines the proposed improvements, estimated costs and recommended property assessments for the reconstruction of the following street segments:

Street	From/To
Pershing Avenue	1st Street E – 3rd Street SE
8th Street NE	Bemidji Avenue – Lake Blvd
Dewey Avenue	8th Street NE – 10th Street NE
3rd Street SE	Scott Avenue – Grant Avenue
Gemmel Avenue	Paul Bunyan Drive – Cul de Sac (end)
McKinley Avenue	3rd Street SE – 4th Street SE

The estimated cost of the project is \$1,973,628 with the proposed funding sources as follows:

Assessments	\$ 283,805
Sanitary Sewer Utility Fund	\$ 305,475
Water Utility Fund	\$ 302,611
Storm Water Utility Fund	\$ 400,000
City Tax Levy	\$ 425,000
Construction Fund Reserves	\$ 256,737

Anderson provided a summary of the feasibility report for the proposed project. He stated that a neighborhood meeting notice for Thursday, December 13 has been sent to the affected residents allowing an opportunity for them to ask questions and hear about the project prior to the public hearing on January 7, 2019.

RESOLUTION NO. 6193: Approving Feasibility Report and Call Public Hearing on January 7, 2019 at the Neilson Conference Center at the Sanford Center, at 6:00 p.m. for 2019 Street Renewal – City Project 19-01 was offered by Councilmember Meehlhause, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Lehmann was passed by unanimous vote.

Consider Professional Services for New Well Access Road & Airport Investigation – City Project 19-08

Gray stated that in the course of the design work on the new well, it has been determined that the city will need to do some additional drilling, sampling and testing work in three areas related to the new well project. Two of the areas are to obtain soils and wetland information related to the construction of an access road to the new well. The third is to test for PFAS substances in an area where staff is considering installing two sentinel wells. These wells would serve to warn

the city of possible contaminants migrating towards the new well as well as providing the city a 5-10 year warning if contamination is found. The cost of installing the sentinel wells is about \$30,000. Gray further stated that the request related to the airport is no longer relevant as the airport will be contracting that work themselves and not through the city’s firm. The cost of this additional work will be funded with water utility funds.

Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Larson authorizing the city to enter into a professional services contact with Barr Engineering for an amount not to exceed \$17,500. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 20 of the Bemidji City Code Entitled, “Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places” by Adding Section Relating to Permitting of “Special Events” was given a first reading.

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 14, Article II, Section 35 of the Bemidji City Code Entitled, “Rules and Regulations Governing Public Parks” was given a first reading.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- **Thursday, December 13** **5:30 p.m.** Sp. Work Session (Sanford Center CIP)
- Monday, December 17 5:30 p.m. Open House - Outgoing Council
- Monday, December 17 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting
- Monday, January 7 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting – Oath & Seating of Council

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

- Council members provided updates on current events and meetings.
- Mathews updated the council on the remodeling of the chambers. A temporary solution will be to push out the left side of the dais and build a ramp to that side. This will cost \$10,000. The council should have future discussions about a more permanent redesign of the chambers.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Larson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle R. Miller
City Clerk