

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – February 19, 2019

STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

Mayor Albrecht gave the annual State of the City Address stating the state of the City of Bemidji is strong. The Mayor highlighted projects and achievements completed in 2018. The full “State of the City Address” is available on the City’s website and on file in the Clerk’s office.

Pursuant to due call and notice, a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Bemidji, Beltrami County, Minnesota, was held on Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at 6:15 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, Mayor Albrecht presiding.

Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Albrecht, Meehlhause, Beard, Rivera, Erickson, Thompson. Absent: Johnson

Staff Present: City Manager Nate Mathews, Finance Director Ron Eischens, Assistant City Attorney Katie Nolting, Public Works Director/City Engineer Craig Gray, Assistant City Engineer Sam Anderson, City Clerk Michelle Miller

A presentation to the Beltrami County Commissioners was made of a check as payment of a pledge made by the City for the building of the local Veteran’s Home.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Mayor Albrecht called for any amendments to the agenda. The report of the BYAC was removed and the report from BSU Senate was added. **Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Thompson to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

MINUTES

The following minutes were presented for approval:

Work Session: January 22, 2019
Council Meeting: February 4, 2019

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Claims Submitted by Finance Officer in the amount of \$2,328,066.05
2. Claims Submitted by VenuWorks for the Sanford Center in the amount of \$62,452.74
3. General Business Licenses Approvals for 2019
4. Senior Citizen Deferral for Property at 202 Richards Ae SE – City Project 18-01
5. Purchase of Shop Floor Scrubber from Tennant Sales (\$17,300)
6. Update City Purchasing Policy
7. Travel Authorization – LMC Legislative Conference – February 20-21 – Albrecht
8. Travel Authorization – MRCTI Capitol Meeting – March 5-7 – Albrecht
9. Travel Authorization – Bemidji Day at the Capitol – March 28 – Albrecht, Johnson, Meehlhause, Beard

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

Linda Lemmer, 155 Gemmel Avenue, expressed concern that council members are not representing their constituents. Lemmer also stated that rules, regulations and ordinances need maintenance as much as sewer and water lines, streets and structures.

Jennifer Hummerding, Support Within Reach Executive Director, spoke about the issue of sexual violence in the community and its relation to the opioid crisis and other addictions. She invited council to call on their office with any questions.

REPORTS

BSU Student Senate – Alexis Bugera-Brown, Student Senate Representative, updated council on senate events and the upcoming student senate elections.

100% Graduation Update – John Eggers, spoke about the growth of the 100% Graduation initiative. Eggers is seeking a bigger role of elected officials with the formation of a committee of community leaders.

NEW BUSINESS

Revolving Loan Fund Policy Update – Tiffany Fettig, Revolving Loan Fund Administrator, updated council on the proposed Revolving Loan Fund Policy. Mathews also provided the loan fund balances to date. Fettig stated that the policy has not been changed since 2010. She summarized the changes that the committee is recommending. In particular, Fettig is seeking direction regarding Appendix A relating to the designation of the priority zones of the South Shore and the Railroad Corridor for the loan fund. Council did not recommend changing the priority zones.

Motion by Erickson, seconded by Thompson, to adopt the policy changes as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

2019 Street Renewal Project

Sam Anderson, Assistant City Engineer, reviewed the bid results for the 2019 Street Renewal Project (City Project #19-01). The following compliant bids were received:

| BIDDER | BASE BID | ALTERNATE #1 | TOTAL BID AMOUNT |
|-----------------------------|----------------|--------------|------------------|
| Reierson Construction, Inc. | \$1,810,195.21 | \$18,729.05 | \$1,828,924.26 |
| RL Larson Excavating, Inc. | \$2,047,882.40 | \$21,528.30 | \$2,069,410.70 |

Bid Alternate #1 included the reconstruction of a private parking lot owned by Sanford Health on Dewey Avenue; which provided Sanford with the option to have work done under the Alternate Bid at their own expense. However, Sanford has opted to not proceed with Bid Alternate #1.

Anderson noted that the City Engineer’s estimate was \$1,716,200. He stated that Reierson Construction has completed numerous municipal projects for the City and is capable in completing the project. Staff is recommending the Council award the base bid to Reierson Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$1,810,195.21.

Rivera questioned the significant difference of amounts of line item amounts between the two bids. Anderson stated that is very common to see those variations of line items as a part of the competitive bidding process. Regardless of the amount bid for individual items, the contractor still needs to abide by the specifications of the contract. The city will not release a project until it meets all engineering requirements.

RESOLUTION NO. 6209: Awarding the 2019 Street Renewal Project (#19-01) to Reierson Construction, Inc., of Bemidji in the base bid amount of \$1,810,195.21 was offered by Councilmember Meehlhause, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Erickson was passed by unanimous vote.

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 157, 3RD SERIES, Amending an Uncoded Section of Bemidji City Code Pertaining to Alley Vacations (Lot 9, Finseth’s 2nd Addition to Nymore) was given a final reading and passed by unanimous vote.

Motion by Erickson, seconded by Meehlhause, approving publication of a summary of Ordinance No. 157, 3rd Series. Motion carried unanimously.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Monday, February 25 5:30 p.m. Sp Work Session – Railroad Corridor
- Thursday, February 28 7:00 p.m. Joint LGU Fire Department (Station 1)
- Monday, March 4 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting
- Monday, March 11 5:30 p.m. Work Session – Ice Study
- Monday, March 18 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

- Council members and staff provided updates on current issues and meetings.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Beard, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle R. Miller
City Clerk