

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – February 2, 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, February 2, 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, Meehlhause, Johnson, Hellquist, Olson, Erickson, Larson

Staff Present: 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	January 20, 2015
Work Session	January 12, 2015

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Claims Submitted by Finance Officer in the amount of \$606,466.45
2. Claims Submitted by Venuworks for the Sanford Center in the amount of \$136,222.21
3. General Business Licenses Renewals for 2015
4. Consider Purchase of Crash Protection Trailer and Message Board from Earl F. Anderson Attenuator and Message Board in the amount of \$23,923
5. Approved 2014 Pay Equity Report submission to the State of Minnesota
6. Authorized Wage Comparison Study by Springsted in the amount of \$5,500 plus out of pocket expenses

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

Vance Balstad, Co-Chair of Fishing Has No Boundaries, expressed concerns that his group has with the proposed waterfront project scheduled for this summer. He asked if the construction could happen later to accommodate their needs. They have been exploring other options but there is no other location on Lake Bemidji that can provide the space required for 25 pontoons and accessibility for the anglers. He stated that they provide fishing opportunities for up to 80 anglers. Balstad stated he is afraid that they are unable to hold their event this year they could lose their sponsors.

Lori Paris, Bemidji Chamber, stated that the project is scheduled to break for the Dragon Boat Festival and asked if there was some way to condense the construction schedule. She stated that the events that take place at the waterfront park generate an economic impact of approximately \$3.5 million for the community.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – Sophie Warrick, BYA representative, stated they recently met with four new Commission members; three of them are from Trek North School and the other from Voyageurs School. This week there will be listening lunches with Police Chief Mastin to discuss what it is like to be a police officer. Upcoming events include Winter Fest and Valentine's Day Skate on February 13 at the Neilson-Reise Arena.

NEW BUSINESS

Jaycees Water Carnival

Eva Fisher, Chair of the 71st Annual Water Carnival, stated that first and foremost they are before the Council to request permission to once again use the Paul Bunyan Park for their

event. They are requesting that the Council consider a phased construction schedule or delay to accommodate the event. She noted that the Rotary Club has circulated a petition that requests the “Bemidji City Council directs City staff and associated contractors to develop a Paul Bunyan / Library Park renovation plan that allows for the continued successful operation of these important community events on-site at the waterfront”. Fisher stated that she met with City staff on January 29 to discuss their concerns and concluded that the Sanford Center parking lot could work as a backup.

Marcia Larson, Parks & Recreation Director, stated that the construction bids for the project are due on Friday, February 6. She stated that they have been discussing this project for a long time and notified event organizers that alternate locations need to be made. The bid does include allowing a break for the Dragon Boat event (6 days). She stated that there is an alternate bid to delay the construction to middle or end of August but the project would not be completed until June of 2016. After the bids are open, staff will have a better answer as to if any accommodations can be made for this or any other event. It was noted that the Kraus Anderson Fishing tournament has made alternate plans.

City Attorney Felix stated that staff will do all they can to assist with the events.

Vance Balstad stated that no other location works for Fishing Has No Boundaries. The area on the southshore has no beach and Nymore landing has only two docks and not enough room for 25 pontoons. He plans to talk to Rich Siegert about using his beach. There are logistic problems but they are exploring other options. Balstad stated they only use the parking lot for loading and unloading and are willing to shuttle their anglers.

Carl Blesser appeared on behalf of the Rotary Club and thanked the Council for consideration for the Dragon Boat Festival. He stated that it is important to all work together and noted that these events speak to “quality of life” and we need to be creative.

Mayor Albrecht stated that after the bids are reviewed and they hear a recommendation from Staff, the Council will discuss what accommodations can be made to assist with the events at the waterfront at that time.

Outdoor Warning Sirens

Fire Chief Hoefer stated that on October 6, 2014 the Council authorized West Shore Services, Inc., to evaluate and provide recommendations on the city-wide outdoor warning/notification system currently in place. The results of the study recommend replacing our current sirens, upgrading the activation system (control point), and development of a master plan for expansion of the outdoor warning system to accommodate future annexations.

Hoefer stated that staff recommends that six of the current outdoor sirens be replaced, upgrade the activation system/software at dispatch (control point) and consider the addition of two sirens. There is \$180,000 budgeted for this project in 2015.

Erickson noted that the estimate was \$241,000 to complete the work and asked Hoefer how he planned to come up with the extra \$41,000, if need be. Hoefer responded that he would not go beyond the \$180,000 set aside in the CIP and that he expected the final numbers would come in at or under that.

Motion by Hellquist, seconded by Meehlhause, authorizing staff to develop plans/specifications and seek request for proposal for upgrades to the City’s outdoor warning system as recommended. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCES

AN ORDINANCE Authorizing the Sale of Real Property (N. Preuss) was given a first reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 112, 3RD SERIES, An Ordinance Amending an Uncoded Section of Bemidji City Code Pertaining to Alley and Street Vacation (Old MnDOT Site) was given a final reading and passed by unanimous vote.

Motion by Hellquist, seconded by Meehlhause, approving publication of a summary of Ordinance No. 112, 3rd Series. Motion carried unanimously.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Monday, February 9 5:30 p.m. Work Session – City Manager Selection Process Followed by Closed Session at Northern Town Hall regarding Birchmont Drive

- Tuesday, February 17 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting
- Monday, February 23 5:15 p.m. Public Affairs Committee (Upstream TV)
- Monday, February 23 5:30 p.m. Public Works Committee (Docks/Marina)

REPORTS

Alex Miller, Senior Senator, stated with the recent events with alcohol on campus the student senate is starting a task force with BSU President, Police Chief and Fire Chief to work on finding solutions to this problem. Miller stated they are continuing to work on passing a “bill” to ban water bottles on campus. She stated that the ban passed last year but BSU knocked it down.

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

- Council members provided updates on current events and meetings.
- Hellquist shared an invite to the Council from the Innkeepers to a meeting on February 18 at Noon to discuss “Welcome to Bemidji” signs.
- Felix stated that the Airport Executive Director will be presenting information to the City and County regarding the process used so far in filling the chair position on the Airport Authority.
- Felix asked for direction from the Council regarding amending the 2 a.m. ordinance.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Olson, seconded by Meehlhause, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay M. Murphy
City Clerk