

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA
Work Session – Monday, February 25, 2019

Pursuant to due call and notice, a work session of the City Council of the City of Bemidji, Beltrami County, Minnesota, was held on Monday, February 25, 2019, at 5:30 p.m. in the Chambers of City Hall, Mayor Albrecht presiding.

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

Staff Present: City Manager Nate Mathews, City Attorney Al Felix, Finance Director Ron Eischens, Public Works Director/City Engineer Craig Gray, City Clerk Michelle Miller

Others: Monte Hilleman (St. Paul Port Authority), Jeff Shopek (Loucks) and Tom Goodrum (Loucks)

Mayor Albrecht stated the purpose of the work session was to discuss the Railroad Corridor.

Railroad Corridor Development

Hilleman, Shopek and Goodrum provided a detailed summary of Technical Memorandums I and II which were prepared and presented to the City Council on March 27 and September 4, 2018 respectively. The work completed from the memorandums resulted in the Proposal of October 30, 2018 which was presented to the City Council on November 19, 2018.

Rivera identified the following concerns:

- Accuracy of median income in the report.
- Tribal representation during additional soil work.
- Food dessert is not identified as a weakness in the report.
- Affordable housing included in the concept.

Beard questioned the ability to attract families to live next to an active rail corridor. Hilleman stated that this type of development is going to appeal to a particular market niche; which could then drive additional retail.

In reviewing the proposal from October, Hilleman stated that work through Phase 3 would prepare the land for development. Council focused their discussion on Phases 1 and 2 which includes additional testing of soil, as well as consulting costs and engineering costs associated with submitting applications to DEED for a Redevelopment Grant and a Contamination Cleanup Grant. The proposed cost of Phases I and II is \$235,740 less potential grant eligible reimbursement costs of \$88,280 for a final cost of \$147,460. Eischens stated that the funding source could come from 2018 undesignated reserves.

Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Thompson to Implement Phase 1 and 2 of the October 30, 2018 Proposal in the amount of \$235,740 to be paid from 2018 undesignated reserves. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Meehlhause, Beard, Johnson, Rivera, Erickson, Thompson, Albrecht. Nays – None.

Legislative Priorities – Capitol Day

Albrecht provided a handout of potential priorities to provide to the Chamber for the Bemidji Day at the Capitol. Deb Pfaff would like the City to identify 2-3 priorities to submit to legislators. Council identified LGA, BDPI and Street Improvement Districts as a focus for Bemidji legislative priorities.

Adjourn

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

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle R. Miller
City Clerk