

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Work Session – Tuesday, February 25, 2020

Pursuant to due call and notice, a work session of the City Council of the City of Bemidji, Beltrami County, Minnesota, was held on Tuesday, February 25, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. in the Chambers of City Hall, Mayor Albrecht presiding.

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

Staff Present: City Manager Nate Mathews, Finance Director Ron Eischens, City Engineer Craig Gray, Community Development Director Steve Jones, Assistant City Attorney Katie Nolting, Parks & Recreation Director Marcia Larson, Police Chief Mike Mastin, Fire Chief David Hoefer, Assistant City Engineer Sam Anderson, Building Official Bryan Kerby, City Clerk Michelle Miller

Mayor Albrecht stated the purpose of the work session was to review the 2021 Financial Management Plan.

2021 Financial Management Plan

Eischens noted three main considerations that will impact the levy:

- Annexation
- Sanford Center Capital Funding
- Operations Increases (Expenses)
 - Personnel Costs
 - \$733,000 Estimated Personnel Cost Increase
 - Non Personnel Costs
 - \$160,000 Estimated Increase for items such as fuel, supplies, maintenance, travel, training, utilities, etc.
 - Fire Department
 - Transition plan to add deputy chief in 2021
 - Staff restructure
 - New Northern Fire Station building lease
 - Positive impact on ISO rating
 - Police
 - New patrol officer
 - New evidence technician
 - Records clerk
 - Legal
 - Paralegal (discussion is still needed)
 - Phase III Annexation impact
 - Public Building Maintenance
 - Create budget for building maintenance
 - Administration
 - OSHA Safety Consultant
 - Council
 - Dues and Travel
 - Carnegie
 - Higher Operational Costs
 - Part time staffing
 - Parks
 - Staff structure – part time vs full time
 - Maintenance pressure on park and trail system
 - Joint Planning Board
 - Enforcement position
 - Street
 - Ground water contamination cleanup
 - Technology
 - Software upgrades

Staff will need council direction regarding the library, Neilson Reise Arena and other issues, including the Railroad Corridor. The total increase in expenses is \$1,101,000.

Potential revenue sources:

- Phase III Annexation property value
- New Construction value
- General Fund Revenue
 - Franchise and cable fees
- Refuse Profits
- Liquor Store Profits
- Rural Fire Contribution
- EDA Levy – “city” general fund levy offset

Eischens noted that the city tax rate is nearly the same since 2015 at approximately 50.3% which is below the state average and below cities of similar size to Bemidji. The financial management plan was provided as summary information for council. No action was needed at this time.

Adjourn

There being no further business, motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Rivera, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle R. Miller
City Clerk