

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – February 4, 2019

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 4, 2019 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, Beard, Johnson, Rivera, Erickson, Thompson

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

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

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

MINUTES

The following minutes were presented for approval:

Work Session: January 14, 2019
Council Meeting: January 22, 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 Erickson, to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:**

1. Claims Submitted by Finance Officer in the amount of \$729,162.72
2. Claims Submitted by VenuWorks for the Sanford Center in the amount of \$100,553.60
3. General Business License Approvals for 2019
4. Approve Appointment of Heidi Bruder to the HRA
5. Purchase of John Deere 444 Loader from State Purchasing Contract (\$117,000)
6. Rescind Approval to Purchase 2019 Police Vehicles
7. Approval of Industrial Park Replatting Request to JPB (Bemidji Development Corp)

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

No appearance

REPORTS

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – No appearance.

Citizen Animal Initiative – Brandon Mustful, Great River Rescue, provided a history of the relationship between the city and the committee working to change the animal ordinance as it pertains to feral cats. He stated that several mandates within the current ordinance are not enforced and that the ordinance should conform to current laws and best practices. The committee supports the Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR) approach for managing feral cat populations. The committee provided a draft ordinance with suggested changes for council review. The committee is asking the council to take steps to help move this initiative toward the goal of improving the current ordinance. There was no consensus of the council and no action was taken on this matter.

NEW BUSINESS

City Special Use Tax/Hospitality Tax Committee

The Council identified in January the desire to create a Hospitality Tax Committee to help study and guide this issue and to provide recommendations and support to the City Council in lobbying our State Legislature to approve a special use tax/hospitality tax to help off the local city property taxes currently financing the operational, debt service and capital improvement costs of the Sanford Center. The intent of this committee and issue is to be led by the community. Mathews suggests the committee be represented by the following:

- Mayor and Two (2) Councilmembers
- Three (3) Community Members/Residents
- Greater Bemidji Board Member
- Chamber of Commerce Board Member
- Sanford Board of Directors Representative

- BSU Representative
- Food and Beverage Representative
- Innkeeper Representative

Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Thompson, to approve the Hospitality Tax Committee as outlined above. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Discuss Appointments to Joint Planning Agreement Renewal Committee

Albrecht stated that at the January 9, 2019 meeting with Northern Township both LGUs conveyed that they are interested in continuing the joint planning relationship and that the joint planning renewal committee should begin meeting to discuss the terms of that agreement. In the past, Albrecht and Erickson sat on that committee and it is recommended that they continue. Consensus of the Council was to appoint Albrecht and Erickson to the Joint Planning Agreement Renewal Committee.

Change Order No. 3 – Carnegie Construction – City Project 18-07

This change order would be for the renovation and build out of the lower level so that the spaces can be leased to two tenants. The Bemidji Jaycees and Great North Counseling Services have submitted letters of intent with initial lease terms identified in those letters. They have also provided input in the design of the spaces so that it meets their needs. The cost for the basement renovation is \$112,775.73. This would result in a total project shortfall of \$294,922 (increase from \$211,804), which is currently being funded by the general fund undesignated reserves. Erickson stated that she does not feel that this cost should be borne by the Friends of the Carnegie committee with regards to their continued fundraising efforts.

Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Rivera approving Change Order No. 3 – Carnegie Reconstruction – City Project 18-07 for the basement renovation with Bradbury Stamm in the amount of \$112,775.73. Motion carried with the following vote: Ayes: Meehlhause, Beard, Johnson, Rivera, Erickson, Thompson, Albrecht.

ORDINANCES

Ordinance - Alley Vacations (Lot 9, Finseth’s 2nd Addition to Nymore)

Pursuant to published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input regarding an Ordinance Amending an Uncoded Section of Bemidji City Code Pertaining to Alley Vacations (Lot 9, Finseth’s 2nd Addition to Nymore). Mayor Albrecht opened the Public Hearing at 7:19 p.m., hearing no comments, closed the Public Hearing at 7:21 p.m.

AN ORDINANCE Amending an Uncoded Section of Bemidji City Code Pertaining to Alley Vacations (Lot 9, Finseth’s 2nd Addition to Nymore) was given a second reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 156, 3RD SERIES, AN ORDINANCE Amending Chapter 14, Article II, Section 35 of the Bemidji City Code Entitled, “Rules and Regulations Governing Public Parks” was given a final reading and passed by unanimous vote.

Motion by Erickson, seconded by Meehlhause, approving publication of a summary of Ordinance No. 156, 3rd Series. Motion carried unanimously.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Monday, February 11 5:30 p.m. Work Session – Snow Removal/Sidewalks
Community Visioning/Engagement
- Tuesday, February 19 5:30 p.m. State of the City Address
- Tuesday, February 19 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting
- Monday, February 25 5:30 p.m. Sp Work Session – Railroad Corridor

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 Johnson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle R. Miller
City Clerk