

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – March 18, 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, March 18, 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, Erickson, Thompson. Absent: Rivera

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

Beard requested that VenuWorks be added to New Business. **Motion by Johnson, seconded by Meehlhause to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

MINUTES

The following minutes were presented for approval:

Work Session: February 25, 2019
Council Meeting: March 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 Beard, to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:**

1. Claims Submitted by Finance Officer in the amount of \$542,561.24
2. Claims Submitted by VenuWorks for the Sanford Center in the amount of \$78,649.82
3. **RESOLUTION NO. 6211:** Approving a Minnesota Gambling Premises Permit for Lawful Gambling to Bemidji Youth Hockey located at The Tavern on South Shore
4. **RESOLUTION NO. 6212:** Approving a Minnesota Gambling Premises Permit for Lawful Gambling to Bemidji Youth Hockey located at Bunkhouse Bar and Grill
5. Approve Change Order No. 4 – Carnegie Library Reconstruction – City Project 18-07
6. **RESOLUTION NO. 6213:** Supporting 2020 Census Partnership
7. Travel Authorization – 2019 League Annual Conference – June 26-28 – Albrecht, Johnson, Meehlhause

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

Linda Kingery, Citizens Climate Lobby, provided an update on recent activity in the United States Congress regarding the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act.

REPORTS

Librarian's Report

Sheri Brumback, Branch Manager of the library, provide an update on statistics and events at the library. She reported that although there has been staff turnover, she is excited about the enthusiasm and passion exhibited by the new staff. Library staff are looking to implement new programming to engage diverse age groups in the community and look forward to addressing the needs and challenges facing the library.

PFC Bonding Bill

Gray and Mathews provided information to be presented to the state legislature as well as an update on the status of the wells. Mathews stated that he will be testifying in St. Paul on the proposed bonding bill regarding the \$2,000,000 bonding request for 2019 for a new city well.

Localized Flooding

Gray provided an update on preventive measures being taken to assist residents of Tyler Estates by providing opportunities for home owners to pick up sandbags from the public works facility. This will also be available to other residents that might experience localized flooding.

NEW BUSINESS**Mississippi Music - Official Community Festival and Request for a Reduction in Fees**

Felix stated that the organizers for the Mississippi Music event, held weekly during the months of June, July and August, are needing to obtain ten (10) one day temporary liquor licenses so that they can sell strong beer during the event. The previous permit they received was a 3.2% beer on-sale license. State law states that a city may not issue more than one temporary license to any one organization within any 30 day period unless the licenses are issued in connection with an event officially designated a community festival. Therefore, staff is requesting that the Council adopt a resolution to that effect. Additionally, to accommodate the ten individual license applications, event organizers are requesting a reduction in fees. Pursuant to the fee schedule, each license is \$120 for a total of \$1,200. Charlie Pulkrabek, Mississippi Music representative, addressed various questions and concerns from council. Meehlhause stated that this event provides a free music event for the community; unlike other events that may use this license as a part of a fundraiser. Erickson also stated that due to the limited length of the event, a reduced rate could be justified versus using the license during a longer period of time to sell alcohol.

RESOLUTION NO. 6214: Designating the Mississippi Music Event Series as a Community Festival and to waive \$900 of the \$1,200 for the temporary liquor licensing fees associated with ten individual temporary licenses was offered by Councilmember Meehlhause, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Erickson was passed by unanimous vote.

VenuWorks

Beard identified several questions regarding the obligations of VenuWorks as outlined in the current contract. Beard stated that in order for him provide a positive narrative and answer questions of constituents, the more he understands how the Sanford Center is operating, the better he can discuss with community members. He would also like to see information given to council regarding the use of the event risk fund in paragraph 8.3.

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 158, 3RD SERIES, AN ORDINANCE Amending Chapter 20 of the Bemidji City Code Entitled, "Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places" by Adding Section Relating to "Permitting of Special Events" was given a final reading and passed by unanimous vote.

Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Johnson, approving publication of a summary of Ordinance No. 158, 3rd Series. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 159, 3RD SERIES, AN ORDINANCE Amending Chapter 12 of the Bemidji City Code, Article XIX Entitled "Tobacco", Relating to the Minimum Age for Sales of Tobacco-Related Products was given a final reading and passed by the following vote. Ayes: Beard, Johnson, Albrecht, Thompson, Meehlhause. Nays: Erickson

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Meehlhause, approving publication of a summary of Ordinance No. 159, 3rd Series. Motion carried unanimously.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

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| • Monday, March 25 | 5:30 p.m. | Work Session – Parks |
| • Monday, April 1 | 6:00 p.m. | Council Meeting |
| • Monday, April 8 | 5:30 p.m. | Work Session – 2018 Financial Review |
| • Monday, April 15 | 6:00 p.m. | Council Meeting |
| • Monday, April 22 | 5:00 p.m. | Board of Review |
| • Monday, April 22 | 6:00 p.m. | Work Session – Ice Study |
| • Monday, April 29 | 5:30 p.m. | Work Session (Closed) – City Mgr Review |

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 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle R. Miller
City Clerk