

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – March 19, 2012

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 19, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, Mayor Larson presiding.

Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Larson, Waldhausen, Johnson, Hellquist, Albrecht, Negard, Thompson

Staff Present: City Manager John Chattin, City Attorney Alan Felix, Public Works Director/City Engineer Craig Gray, Finance Director Ron Eischens, Marcia Larson, Parks & Recreation Director, City Clerk Kay Murphy

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Mayor Larson called for any amendments to the agenda. Councilor Albrecht requested that the item regarding the Carnegie Building be split into two agenda items: 1) Carnegie Library Building and 2) Upstream TV's request. **Motion by Johnson, seconded by Negard, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

MINUTES

Minutes of the March 5, 2012 regular meeting and March 12, 2012 work session were presented for approval. Thompson noted a minor typo. **Motion by Johnson, seconded by Thompson, to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Claims submitted by the Finance Officer in the total amount of \$484,554.07
2. Miscellaneous Business License Renewals for 2012
3. 1 Day Consumption & Display Permit – Art Center; May 10
4. 1-4 Day Temporary Liquor Permits
5. Night At the Races – NW Tech; April 20
6. Dragon Boat Festival; August 2-4
7. **RESOLUTION NO. 5754:** Approving the Site for the 2012 Lake Bemidji Dragon Boat Festival
8. **RESOLUTION NO. 5755:** Repair or Remove Structure(s) Located at 205 Shevlin Avenue SW
9. Appointment Recommendations to the Greater Bemidji Joint Planning Commission:
- Bruce Brady and Judy David
10. Appointment to the Parks & Trails Commission – Chad Macheel
11. Travel Authorization – Mayor's Annual Conference in Winona – April 27-28 - Larson

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Negard, to amend the agenda to add approval of the Sanford Center claims. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Waldhausen, seconded by Johnson, to approve the Sanford Center Claims in the amount of \$305,688.69. Motion carried unanimously.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

- Sharon Fruetel, 5633 Birchmont Drive NE, stated that she is passionate about saving our heritage and encouraged the Council to support the efforts of individuals in our community to preserve our history.
- Kathryn LaVelle, 9655 Charles Lane, stated that the life of a town is much like the life of a person. She stated that we need our history and it is important to preserve it.
- Sean Froyd, 701 Shevlin Avenue, expressed concerns about a recent data request he had made and that there should be protocols.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – Grant Johnson, BYA representative, reported on the progress of their June 7 meeting.

BSU Student Senate – Waldhausen will be meeting with them this week.

PUBLIC HEARING

Marcia Larson, Parks & Recreation Director stated that the cost for the entire accessible playground project is estimated at \$631,500. The Bemidji Lion's Club, Shane's Inspiration and a committee of community members are committed to assist with the fundraising for this project through grants, events and other fundraising methods. She recommended applying for \$85,000 through the Outdoor Recreation grant. This grant would provide funding for the 2-5 year old play area, sensory area and musical area. The required local match for this project is 50 percent and is budgeted in the Park Department's capital improvement funds and reserves in the North Country Project. The fundraising will begin this year and construction will start in May 2013. The project will be phased.

Pursuant to published notice a public hearing was held regarding input on a proposed Outdoor Recreation Grant application to be submitted on March 30, 2012. Mayor Larson opened the Public Hearing at 7:20 p.m. Hearing no comments, Mayor Larson closed the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

RESOLUTION NO. 5756: Accepting Responsibility as Sponsoring Agency (Outdoor Recreation Grant) was offered by Councilmember Waldhausen, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Thompson was passed by unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Carnegie Library Building

Mayor Larson stated that this item was tabled from the March 12, 2012 work session.

Councilor Negard stated that the building is in somewhat disrepair but not falling down. He stated that there are good compelling reasons not to keep it and questioned the cost. He stated that Upstream TV and Carnegie Library building discussions need to be separated. Negard stated he would like to see the building moved back and the project should not be phased.

Lewis Crenshaw commented that anyone that owns a home does phased projects and did not understand why the project could not be phased. He stated that if the building is moved one inch it falls off of the Historic Register but can be put back on but it has to go through a process that could take up to 18 months. Legacy grants can be big and if we move the building, we will lose those grants.

Chattin stated that the current occupants of the building do not have to move until a decision is made on the Carnegie Library.

Albrecht commented that the Art Center has a potential purchase agreement. She stated that moving the building back, while it does seem to be a negative, in the end it would look better and felt confident that the Heritage Preservation Commission would take on the process to re-list the building on the National Register of Historic Places. Albrecht suggested that there be benchmarks. It is important to put together a solid fundraising committee that would develop a plan including fundraising goals and a timeline.

Consensus of the Council was that the Waterfront and Library Park planning could move forward. Johnson agreed that the building should be moved to better fit the park plan.

Motion by Negard, seconded by Waldhausen, to allow a group to raise the necessary funds to upgrade the Carnegie Library, that a timeline be submitted to the Council by June, that the building be moved back a minimum of 10 feet and the City will contribute \$100,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Upstream TV

Mike Bredon, Executive Director of Upstream TV, stated that they are interested in being the tenant of the Carnegie Library building. He commented that there may be others. He stated that Upstream TV would be willing to utilize its non-profit status to raise funds toward the upgrades of the Carnegie Library. He suggested that the City look at other communities to see what can be accomplished by government access television. He commented that he watched as the "old high school" was demolished and we lost a beautiful building and memories. Bredon stated that he did not want to see the same thing happen to the Carnegie Library.

Council consensus was that Upstream TV and Public Affairs Committee continue the dialog regarding the future of government and public access television.

NEW BUSINESS

Irvine Avenue Bridge Repair

City Engineer Craig Gray stated that the City held a bid opening was held on March 14 for repair of the three expansion joints on the Irvine Avenue Bridge. The following three bids were received:

PCi Roads, LLC	\$115,483.07
Gerit Hanson Contracting, Inc.	\$123,294.00
Swingen Construction	\$130,541.00

The engineer’s estimate for the project was \$97,671. Gray stated that although the bids are above the original estimate they are good numbers for this type of specialized work and should be accepted. The City’s municipal state aid construction account will pay for the construction costs and the engineering fees.

Motion by Albrecht, seconded by Thompson, to award the bid for the Irvine Avenue Bridge Repair (#11-08) to PCi Roads, LLC from St. Michael, MN, in the amount of \$115,483.07. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE

Motion by Albrecht, seconded by Waldhausen, accepting the revised Ordinance regarding the Public Arts Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 80, 3RD SERIES, AN ORDINANCE Amending Chapter 2, Article V, of the Bemidji City Code Relating to Boards, Commissions and Committees, by adding Division 10, entitled “Public Arts Commission” was given a final reading and passed by unanimous vote.

Motion by Albrecht, seconded by Thompson, approving publication of a summary of Ordinance No. 80, 3rd Series. Motion carried unanimously.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Monday, April 2 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting
- Monday, April 9 5:30 p.m. Work Session – Year 2011 Financial Review

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

- Council members provided updates on current events and meetings.
- Felix reported that he has not heard anything from Bemidji Township’s attorney regarding annexation discussion.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Albrecht, seconded by Thompson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay M. Murphy
City Clerk