

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – March 2, 2020

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 2, 2020 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, Johnson, Rivera, Erickson, Thompson.

Staff Present: City Manager Nate Mathews, Finance Director Ron Eischens, Assistant City Attorney Katie Nolting, City Engineer Craig Gray, Community Development Director Steven Jones, City Clerk Michelle Miller

SWEARING IN CEREMONY

Chief Mastin introduced Officer Houglum, Officer Schermerhorn and Officer Olson and City Clerk Miller conducted the oath of office.

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:

BEDA Meeting: February 10, 2020
Council Meeting: February 18, 2020

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Meehlhause, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

Albrecht called for any items to be pulled from the consent agenda. Johnson requested that the claims submitted by VenuWorks for the Sanford Center be removed for further discussion. The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval. **Motion by Erickson, seconded by Johnson, to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:**

1. Claims Submitted by Finance Officer in the amount of \$524,572.36
2. Approve General Business Licenses for 2020
3. Approve Special Event Permit – March 17 (St. Patrick's Day Parade)
4. Approve Quote of Bessler Electric for Industrial Park Wiring Project (\$51,654)
5. Travel Authorization – MRCTI Capitol Meeting, March 3-5 - Albrecht
6. Travel Authorization – LMC Legislative Action Day, March 18-19 – Albrecht, Rivera
7. Travel Authorization – Bemidji Day at the Capitol, March 24 – Albrecht, Meehlhause, Johnson

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

Joe Vene, 1415 Birchmont Drive NE, addressed council regarding the Ward 2 council vacancy.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider City/GBAJPB Enforcement Position

Mathews stated that staff has been working on an enforcement position for the planning office to help with enforcing the terms of variances as well as zoning issues. Northern Township has approved this position. Erickson expressed support for the position but concern with the contract with the Township regarding the funding ratio in the contract.

Motion by Rivera, seconded by Meehlhause, approving the City/GBAJPB Enforcement Position as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider Resolution Canceling Special Election and Ordering a New Special Election

Nolting stated that the city was made aware of a possible publishing error prior to the opening of the filing period for the Ward 2 Council vacancy. Nolting stated that two weeks published notice should have been done prior the filing period being open. Based on that information, Nolting is recommending that the council cancel the special election scheduled for May 2 and order a new special election for August 11 which will coincide with the state primary election. Additionally, a new filing period will begin on May 19.

RESOLUTION NO. 6291: Amending Resolution No. 6285 (A Resolution Declaring a Council Vacancy and Ordering a Special Election, was offered by Councilmember Meehlhause, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Rivera was passed by unanimous vote.

Claims Submitted by VenuWorks for the Sanford Center in the Amount of \$44,179.11

Johnson expressed concerns regarding the food and beverage commissions paid to VenuWorks in the amount of \$3,222.19 and the time period that covers. Staff will follow up on the time period that covers. Johnson also expressed concern of the use of Always There Staffing for part time help. He is particularly concerned with the lack of ushers at hockey events which could cause safety issues and poor customer service.

Motion by Erickson, seconded by Rivera, approving the claims submitted by VenuWorks for the Sanford Center in the Amount of \$44,179.11. Motion carried with the following vote: Yeas: Albrecht, Meehlhause, Rivera, Erickson, Thompson. Nays: Johnson.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Monday, March 9 5:30 p.m. Work Session – 197 Corridor Improvements (MNDot)
- Monday, March 16 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Johnson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle R. Miller
City Clerk