

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA
Special Meeting/Work Session – March 28, 2016

Pursuant to due call and notice, a special meeting/work session of the City Council of the City of Bemidji, Beltrami County, Minnesota, was held on Monday, March 28, 2016, at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of City Hall, Mayor Albrecht presiding.

Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Albrecht, Meehlhause, Johnson, Hellquist, Olson, Erickson, Larson

Staff Present: City Manager Nate Mathews, Public Works Director Craig Gray, GIS Coordinator Brett Case, Site Analyst Josh Stearns, City Clerk Kay Murphy

Others Present: Mitch Rautio, Keith Kennan

Mayor Albrecht asked that the Old Midway Drive Trail Bridge be discussed first to accommodate the Public Works Director. Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Hellquist, approving the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Midway Trail Bridge

Gray stated that he received a letter from MnDOT regarding the Old Midway Drive Bridge. This bridge is listed on the National Register as a historic structure and functions as a trail bridge over the Mississippi River. He stated that MnDOT asked if the City would like to include the Old Midway bridge in a 2017 Legacy application. He reviewed options for the grant application and noted that the estimated cost for this historical rehab of the bridge is \$950,000. As it is doubtful that the Legacy grant would award more than \$300,000, there is no funding available for the remaining \$650,000. He stated that if the City decided to apply for legacy funding, it would be competing with the Carnegie Library project and it would be unlikely MNHS would award money to two large projects in the same city.

Councilor Olson commented that the Carnegie project has been trying to get legacy funding for several years. He commented that perhaps other projects are being foregone in favor of the Carnegie.

Councilor Erickson commended the Carnegie Steering Committee who have worked hard raising funds for the project and did not want to jeopardize their efforts.

Mayor Albrecht stated that the City has only two projects, the Carnegie and Old Midway Bridge, that would qualify for legacy funds. The Council received a letter from the Steering Committee Treasurer, Catherine Marchand, in which she states that the group will be applying for a \$350,000 legacy grant in 2016. Ms. Marchand opined that if the City sponsored another Legacy Grant application, it would put the Carnegie application at risk and make their task that much more difficult.

Consensus of the Council was that they did not wish to proceed with a 2017 Legacy application for the bridge.

GIS MAPPING UPDATES

Brett Case, GIS Coordinator, reviewed the new updates to the City's mapping.

Railroad Corridor

Mitch Rautio, Specklebelly Properties, reviewed his "vision" for developing the railroad corridor. He noted that the goal is to develop the land into taxable property which will include community enhancing features. He stated that they are interested in providing plans and details that will give the City the opportunity to gain grants to clean up the contamination sites. He stated that he would like to enter into an agreement or letter of intent where the City agrees to sell the property at a lower than market price and would be interested in purchasing the property in phases.

Councilor Erickson responded that she supported his efforts and was okay with the idea of purchasing in phases. She stated that the City needs an appraisal on the property.

Mayor Albrecht referred to a memo prepared by Dave Hengel, Greater Bemidji, in which he recommended that the City work with Mitch Rautio which will enable the City to successfully

seek Mn Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) funding for contamination cleanup and redevelopment program funding for the railroad corridor.

The Council directed the City Manager to continue working with Mr. Rautio and Greater Bemidji regarding the submission of a DEED grant to do a Phase II environmental review as well as a development of a Response Action Plan (RAP). The City Manager will confer with the City Attorney regarding appraisal of the property.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Olson, seconded by Hellquist, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Kay M. Murphy
City Clerk