

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – March 5, 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 5, 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 Attorney Alan Felix, Finance Director Ron Eischens, City Clerk Kay Murphy

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Mayor Larson called for any amendments to the agenda. Johnson requested travel authorization to attend the LMC Legislative Conference in St. Paul on March 21-22, 2012. **Motion by Hellquist, seconded by Thompson, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

MINUTES

Minutes of the February 21, 2012 regular meeting were presented for approval. **Motion by Albrecht, seconded by Waldhausen, to approve the minutes as prepared. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

CONSENT AGENDA

The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval. Waldhausen requested that the travel authorization be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion. **Motion by Thompson, seconded by Johnson, to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:**

1. Claims Submitted by Finance Officer in the amount of \$750,666.15
2. **RESOLUTION NO. 5753:** Approving the Site for the 2012 Jaycees Water Carnival
3. Appointment to the Bemidji Regional Airport – Marshall Froyd (3 years)

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

- Louise Mengelkoch, 12441 Sundog Trail NE, expressed concerns regarding the Indian burial sites located under the former Pamida building. She asked that the Council consider getting involved to protect those sites.
- Mike Bredon, Executive Director – Upstream TV, requested an opportunity for Upstream to meet with the Council regarding a proposal for reuse of the Carnegie Library. He stated that they have a plan for expansion of public access television and government access television while preserving the 102 year-old Carnegie Library. Council directed staff to place this item on the March 12 work session.
- Leroy Stenstrom, 516 Wood Avenue SE, stated that he is concerned about the fate of the Carnegie Library and urged the City to make an effort to save this historical building.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – Kaia Roy, BYA representative, stated that this year's June 7 event will be held at City Park due to a conflict with the Kraus Anderson Walleye Classic. She commented that there will be no listening lunches in March.

BSU Student Senate – No one appeared.

Librarian's Report - Paul Ericsson, Branch Manager, reported that in the past month they have turned the corner on behavior problem frequency or severity as previously experienced at the library. He believed that public awareness and police visibility have contributed to the reduction of the problems experienced. He reported on upcoming March events at the Library.

NEW BUSINESS

Travel Authorization

Waldhausen asked for more information regarding the LMC Legislative Conference in St. Paul. He further stated that there was a concern last year regarding the Council travel going over budget and wanted to make sure it was necessary.

Albrecht stated that this is an opportunity for city leaders to lobby directly with legislators. She further commented that this year there are unfunded mandates that could potentially impact the city.

Hellquist noted that while it is not easy to take time to attend these conferences it is a good experience but not absolutely necessary.

Motion by Negard, seconded by Thompson, approving travel authorization for Albrecht and Johnson to attend the LMC Legislative Conference on March 21-22, 2012 in St. Paul. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE

Pursuant to published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input regarding 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”. Mayor Larson opened the Public Hearing at 7:33 p.m.

Sandy Kaul, 411 Mill Street SE, stated she has been the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee appointed by the Council over a year ago to develop an Arts Commission. She stated that, along with other committee members, they reviewed other art commission ordinances to develop the one proposed for Bemidji. She stated that many larger Minnesota cities have arts commissions and Bemidji has a very active art community.

Felix stated that Mayana Rice, Greater Bemidji Joint Planning Board, has indicated a potential conflict with the sign requirements for wall art and they will be meeting to discuss that further.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Larson closed the public hearing at 7:40 p.m.

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 second reading.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Monday, March 12 5:30 p.m. Work Session – Upstream TV/Carnegie Library
- Monday, March 19 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

- Council members provided updates on current events and meetings.
- Felix noted that he sent a letter to Hellmuth & Johnson who has been retained by Bemidji Township regarding annexation issues suggesting potential meeting dates. No response has been received as the date of this meeting.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Hellquist, seconded by Negard, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay M. Murphy
City Clerk