

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – March 5, 2018

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, 2018 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, Hellquist, Johnson, Lehmann, Erickson, Larson

Staff Present: City Manager Nate Mathews, City Attorney Alan Felix, Finance Director Ron Eischens, Public Works Director/City Engineer Craig Gray, City Clerk Kay Murphy

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Mayor Albrecht called for any amendments to the agenda. **Motion by Erickson, seconded by Johnson, to approve the agenda as prepared. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

MINUTES

The following minutes were presented for approval:

Council Meeting	February 20, 2018
BEDA Meeting	February 20, 2018
Work Session	February 26, 2018

Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Erickson, to approve the minutes as prepared. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Claims submitted by the Finance Officer in the total amount of Claims Submitted by Finance Officer in the amount of \$493,819.94
2. Claims Submitted by VenuWorks for the Sanford Center in the amount of \$137,241.16
3. General Business Licenses Renewals for 2018
4. Wine & On Sale 3.2 Beer Licenses to Tara Bemidji, LLC dba Slurp Ramen at 414 Beltrami Avenue NW
5. Wine & On Sale 3.2 Beer Licenses to Tara Bemidji, LLC dba Wasabi Sushi at 419 Beltrami Avenue NW
6. Transfer of a Full Liquor and Sunday Liquor from Derek Kringen to Dan Haugan dba Bunkhouse Bar & Grill, Inc. at 1602 Bemidji Avenue N.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

- Linda Kingery, Bemidji Citizens Lobby, reviewed information from the National Weather Service regarding climate change and variability across northern Minnesota.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – Mia Haugan reported on recent activities and stated that they continue to plan for their June 7 Youth Rally.

BSU Student Senate – Lawrence Hamberger, BSU Senator, reported on recent policies and bills the Student Senate adopted or working on.

OLD BUSINESS

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission

Dan McKeon, Evergreen Youth & Family Services Executive Director, stated that Evergreen is operating with a budget that includes a \$7,500 contribution from the City. He stated that BYAC is a City commission that is housed and hosted by Evergreen. Evergreen is a non-profit that provides youth and family services and they would like to continue to host BYAC. He stated that they would like to assist the Council to develop a clear vision for BYAC and develop measurable outcomes.

Erickson stated that the increase in funding made her wonder what the original intent of the Commission and if it is meeting that goal. Erickson asked about the stipend allocation listed on their budget. Rachel Munson, BYAC Faculty Advisor, responded that the stipend amount of \$100/semester was budgeted as an incentive to increase the participation in the Commission. Mayor Albrecht observed that it is important to engage with youth for a number of reasons and further believed that the stipend helps to equalize by making it affordable for students to participate.

Hellquist questioned what the Commission does and suggested they attend more Council meetings to learn about City government.

Lehmann commented that the Commission was created to provide a voice for youth in our community. He felt that it is important to continue to support the Commission but the Council needs to provide direction.

Munson stated that Commission members meet to review upcoming Council agendas, liaison to several city commissions, other non-profit groups as well as volunteering at events, i.e., the Carnegie Winter Tea.

Meehlhause stated that this has been budgeted for the fiscal year and the funding is needed it to operate the rest of the year. He stated that better direction from the Council needs to be developed but suggested that those conversations happen later. He asked Munson if the Commission would be able to hold their June 7 event if it is not funded. Munson responded that she would need to check but probably not.

Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Larson, to approve the BYAC stipend in the amount of \$7,500. Motion failed with the following vote: Ayes: Albrecht, Meehlhause, Larson. Nays: Hellquist, Lehmann, Erickson, Johnson.

Councilmembers discussed a possible work session March 26 to discuss the Commission further with Evergreen regarding more measure. Mathews stated that there is a work session scheduled with Evergreen regarding BYAC in May. Staff will look at the meeting calendar to see if there is a date available sooner.

NEW BUSINESS

Otter Tail Power (OTP)

Roger Garton, OTP Energy Management Representative, stated that beginning this spring OTP will be upgrading all company-owned street and area light fixtures in Bemidji to light-emitting diode (LED) technology. He stated that compared to other available lighting sources, LEDs are more energy-efficient using about 70 percent less energy than HIDs. He stated that customers will see a slight decrease in costs depending on the type of fixture used for light services. He stated that there is more information on their website otpc.com/LEDStreetLighting.

Grant Valley Orderly Annexation

Felix stated that staff have negotiated and prepared an Orderly Annexation Agreement (OAA) with the Grant Valley Town Board, which accomplishes annexation of the Gene Dillon Elementary School site along with the County Road 7 right-of-way that connects the site to the existing city limits at Adams Avenue. The right-of-way also is serving as the corridor in which municipal water and sewer have been extended to the school site.

Lehmann stated he would not be supporting the resolution as it starts creating the piecemeal annexation issue that a council years ago tried hard to avoid.

RESOLUTION NO. 6141: A Joint Resolution in the Matter of the Orderly Annexation Between the City of Bemidji and Grant Valley Township Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 414.0325 was offered by Councilmember Meehlhause, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Johnson was passed by the following vote: Ayes: Larson, Hellquist, Erickson, Albrecht, Meehlhause, Johnson. Nays: Lehmann.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Monday, March 12 5:30 p.m. Work Session – If needed
- Monday, March 19 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

- Council members provided updates on current events and meetings.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Hellquist, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay M. Murphy
City Clerk