

# CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

## BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

### Regular Meeting – April 15, 2013

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, April 15, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, Mayor Albrecht presiding.

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

Staff Present: City Manager John Chattin, Public Works Director/City Engineer Craig Gray, Finance Director Ron Eischens, City Clerk Kay Murphy

#### **AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA**

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

#### **MINUTES**

The following minutes were presented for approval:

Regular Council:	March 25, 2013
Work Session:	March 25, 2013
Regular Council:	April 1, 2013
Special BEDA:	April 1, 2013
Work Session:	April 8, 2013

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

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval with the addition of a liquor license for The Marvelous Fish House. **Motion by Johnson, seconded by Thompson, to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:**

1. Claims Submitted by Finance Officer in the amount of \$335,943.15
2. Claims Submitted by VenuWorks for the Sanford Center in the amount of \$78,526.87 (\$70,628.87 plus \$7,898)
3. Miscellaneous Business Licenses for 2013
4. Approved a 1 Day Temporary Consumption & Display Permit – Chamber Event on 5/14/2013
5. Approved Budget Change Request #1
6. Approved Memorandum of Understanding with Beltrami County for Anne Street Storm Sewer – City Project #13-04
7. Purchase of Hydraulic Rescue Tools – Jefferson Fire Equipment (\$32,414.84) – Fire Dept.
8. **RESOLUTION NO. 5830:** Approving the Site for the 2013 Kraus Anderson Walleye Classic
9. **RESOLUTION NO. 5831:** of the City Council to Not Waive the Monetary Limits on Tort Liability Established by M.S. 466.04 and Appointing Insurance Agent of Record
10. Declared as Surplus Equipment - 2000 Chevrolet and 2007 Impala – Police Dept.
11. Authorized a Joint Powers Agreement with the DNR for New Paul Bunyan Trail Bridge Sign
12. Approved a Liquor License for the Marvelous Fish House – 801 Washington Ave S.

**Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

#### **CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA**

No one appeared.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – Hannah Sorenson, BYA representative, updated the Council on the progress for the June 7 event.

**OLD BUSINESS****Paul Bunyan Trail Sign**

Chattin stated that a sign has been designed by Meyers Sign of Bemidji and Diversified Builders has submitted a proposal to install the sign in the amount of \$19,935. The DNR has agreed to contribute \$5,000 towards the project leaving the City with \$14,935.

**Motion by Olson, seconded by Erickson, to approve a contract with Diversified Builders and Design for the new “Welcome to Bemidji” sign on the Hwy 197 and First Street trail bridge in the amount of \$19,935 utilizing surplus funds. Motion carried unanimously.**

**NEW BUSINESS****2013 Street Renewal Project**

Gray stated that on December 2, 2012 the City Council approved a feasibility report for the reconstruction of various streets as part of the City's 2013 Street Renewal Project. The public hearing was held on January 13, 2013 at which time the Council passed a resolution ordering the project and authorizing the preparation of engineering plans and the receipt of bids. Six bids were received at the bid opening on April 2. Staff has reviewed the bids and recommended awarding the bid to Reierson Construction in the amount of \$1,081,630.14.

Hellquist inquired if any further correspondence had been received from residents along 5<sup>th</sup> Street SE and Gould. Gray responded that one letter was received expressing their displeasure regarding the project.

**RESOLUTION NO. 5832: Awarding the bid for City Project #13-01, 2013 Street Renewal Project, to Reierson Construction of Bemidji in the amount of \$1,081,630.14 was offered by Councilmember Thompson, and upon due second by Councilmember Meehlhause passed with the following vote: Ayes: Johnson, Erickson, Meehlhause, Thompson, Olson, Albrecht. Nays: Hellquist.**

**Railroad Corridor Discussion**

Chattin stated that the City's Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Policy defines the Soo Line Railroad Corridor as one of two priority areas within the City. Within that area, retail businesses that normally would not qualify for a loan are eligible to apply. He commented that the Union Square area has seen difficult times in attracting retail businesses. Chattin stated that City Council has never formally defined the area that it would like as the railroad corridor and asked for direction.

Johnson asked how Harmony Food Coop received a loan from the RLF?

Mayor Albrecht stated that one does not have to be in the railroad corridor to apply for a RFL and that Harmony Food Coop met a couple of other tests provided in the policy.

Tiffany Fettig, Headwaters Regional Finance Corporation, commented that Harmony did qualify for a loan as there was a lack of this type of service in downtown.

Chattin stated that if the Council wanted to include Union Square it could be argued that most of the money in the Revolving Loan Fund came from UDAG funds which came from the Union Square Project.

Erickson pointed out that it appears the policy has not been reviewed or updated since its inception and recommended that the Council review the policy.

Fettig responded that it has not been reviewed; however, the policy has been used only once since adoption.

Mayor Albrecht agreed that the policy should be reviewed and, if she is on that committee, would be willing to allow another Council person to take her place. She further commented that she was not too keen in expanding the corridor and providing loans to businesses that already exist in downtown but was willing to discuss it further.

Erickson requested to be on the committee to review the RLF. She commented that the RLF is coming down to the 75% committed funds as allowed by the policy. Discussion continued regarding the amount of funds remaining.

Hellquist commented that he was in favor of the overall purpose of the RLF but not with including Union Square. He stated that the RLF could be used elsewhere and liked the original boundary of the corridor.

Fettig stated that there have been a couple inquiries but no official applications. Two are retail and the other would qualify.

**Motion by Thompson, seconded by Johnson, to extend the “railroad corridor” north to 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NW along Paul Bunyan South to the Mississippi River and the southerly border of the Soo Line Corridor. Motion carried with the following vote: Ayes: Olson, Albrecht, Meehlhause, Thompson, Johnson. Nays: Erickson, Hellquist.**

**ORDINANCE**

Pursuant to published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input regarding an Ordinance Amending an Uncoded Section of Bemidji City Code Pertaining to Vacation of a Paper Street (Portion of Lake Blvd.). Mayor Albrecht opened the Public Hearing at 7:51 p.m., hearing no comments the public hearing was closed at 7:52 p.m.

**AN ORDINANCE** regarding an Ordinance Amending an Uncoded Section of Bemidji City Code Pertaining to Vacation of a Paper Street (Portion of Lake Blvd.) was given a second reading.

**UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS**

- Monday, April 22                      5:30 p.m.                      Special Work Session – Energy Audit
- Monday, May 6                         7:00 p.m.                      Council Meeting
- **Tuesday, May 7                        5:00 p.m.                      Board of Review**
- Monday, May 13                        5:30 p.m.                      Work Session – StrengthsFinder Part #2

**COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT**

- Brief reports were made by the City Council.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Johnson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Kay M. Murphy  
City Clerk