

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – April 2, 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, April 2, 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 Manager John Chattin, City Attorney Alan Felix, Public Works Director/City Engineer Craig Gray, Finance Director Ron Eischens, Chief of Police Mike Mastin, City Clerk Kay Murphy

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

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

MINUTES

Minutes of the March 19, 2012 regular meeting and March 19, 2012 special BEDA meeting were presented for approval. **Motion by Negard, 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. **Motion by Johnson, seconded by Thompson, to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:**

1. Claims submitted by the Finance Officer in the total amount of \$\$837,269.95
2. Miscellaneous Business License Renewals for 2012
3. **RESOLUTION NO. 5757:** Providing for the Prepayment and Redemption of Certain General Obligation Bonds
4. Establish City Special Revenue Fund to Accept Donations/Contributions for Carnegie Library
5. Travel Authorization – Airport Symposium – Johnson, Hellquist

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

- Howie Baxter, 1312 Minnesota Avenue, asked the City Engineer for an update on the Minnesota Avenue Project that was started last year. Gray responded that work will begin soon to complete the project. Mr. Baxter suggested that the City work with BSU regarding the former high school grounds located along 15th Street.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – Kaia Roy, BYA representative, stated that work continues on their June 7 event. She stated that they are looking for t-shirt sponsors.

Librarian's Report - Paul Ericsson, Branch Manager, reviewed the Library's kindergarten reading readiness program. He stated that the library is "poised to serve all families, all children, all year round."

Police Department

Chief Mike Mastin stated that the Bemidji Police Department is committed to active partnerships within the community in order to protect life and property, innovatively solve problems, enhance the safety and quality of life and to provide exemplary police service by enforcing the law in a just and impartial manner. Mastin stated that in his short term as the Chief he has promoted Jim Markert to Captain, hired new police officers and established a new eligibility list. He stated that his goals are to actively recruit, train and retain a professional motivated and diverse workforce; maximize service to the public through positive interaction and meaningful relationships; reduce crime; and learn current technologies and research emerging technologies to improve efficiencies among employees. Mastin stated that he plans to be more proactive in dealing with quality of life issues, i.e., parties. Mastin stated that he hopes to hire another Community Service Officer that would deal primarily with quality of life issues.

PRESENTATION**Walk A Mile in Her Shoes Event**

Cassandra Johnson stated that on April 28, 2012 there will be an event at the Rotary Pavilion down by Paul & Babe. The purpose of the “Walk A Mile in Her Shoes” event is to raise awareness to stop rape, sexual assault and gender violence. She invited the “men” in the community to participate.

OLD BUSINESS**Annexation**

Chattin stated that the self-imposed deadline for negotiating with Northern and Bemidji Township is here. At the LGU meeting in February, all parties agreed that the City should meet separately with both townships to consider alternatives/amendments to the current annexation agreement. The City was successful in meeting with Northern Township and the committee was pleased with the proposal by Northern to modify the Phase 2 annexation areas and eliminate the 3rd phase altogether. However, Bemidji Township would not agree to meet and instead sought legal counsel. He recommended that the Council proceed with Phase I annexation of Northern Township but hold off on Bemidji Township until “such action does not have an adverse fiscal impact to the City”.

Johnson stated that at the December work session, the Council decided to move forward with the first phase annexation with both Bemidji and Northern Townships. He provided a history of the annexation stating that all three LGU’s worked together in 2004 to develop the agreement and phase-ins. He stated that this agreement has been in place for eight years and the city-taxpayers were “sacrificed” for those years. Then in 2009, the Council delayed the annexation due to the situation with Northern Township. He stated that this is a joint agreement and it should be done together. He stated that Bemidji Township was given time to come up with an alternative for the first phase. He further noted that there is short-term pain for long-term gain through the annexation process.

Negard commented that he was upset with the leadership, or lack of leadership, from Bemidji Township. He stated that it was agreed that there would be individual meetings with the Townships and the meeting with Bemidji Township did not happen. He stated he was intrigued with Northern Township’s proposal but moving along with other phases could have an impact on constituents that had planned for taxes in later phases. Negard noted that many properties in the city now are not on water or sewer.

Johnson stated that the City was looking at the growth for the next 15-20 years. He stated that water and sewer is not part of the plan. He stated that the request for the agreement came from the townships so the City could grow in an orderly fashion. He commented that prior to the agreement the city annexed property as property owners approached the City, the townships tried to stop the annexations but were unable to.

Albrecht stated that she was hesitant to annex Bemidji Township as they have not been in communication with the City. She further stated that she was in favor of the original annexation phases in Northern Township.

Negard stated that the City should not be held hostage to “possible” litigation. He observed that many eyes have looked at the original agreement. City has a joint agreement with Northern and Bemidji and in the “spirit” of the agreement the annexation should happen together.

Waldhausen commented that the City Council agreed to review the OAA and in the spirit of the agreement the City should move forward.

Felix stated that the Phase 1, 2, and 3 dates are “eligibility” dates, which gives the City Council the ability to annex any or all of the areas within those properties.

RESOLUTION NO. 5758: Initiating Annexation of Phase I Properties in the Orderly Annexation Area Pursuant to the Joint Resolution was offered by Councilmember Johnson, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Waldhausen was passed by the following vote: Ayes: Hellquist, Johnson, Waldhausen, Thompson, Negard. Nays: Albrecht, Larson.

NEW BUSINESS**2012 Street Renewal Project**

Gray stated that the City went out for bids for the 2012 Street Renewal Project. The streets included within the proposed project are: Miles – Roosevelt Road to Third Street SE and 19th Street NW – Park Avenue to Delton Avenue NW. Four bids were received with the low bid

from Reierson Construction in the amount of \$666,000.07. The bid is under the engineer's estimate and Gray recommended awarding the bid to include the Nymore Park bid alternate.

RESOLUTION NO. 5759: Awarding Bid for City Project #12-01 to Reierson Construction in the amount of \$666,000.07 was offered by Councilmember Johnson, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Waldhausen was passed by the unanimous vote.

2012 Prosecution Services Agreement

Felix reviewed the Prosecution Services Agreement with the County Attorney's office. The contract price has increased from \$128,500 in 2011 to \$134,000 for 2012. He recommended approval of the agreement.

Motion by Albrecht, seconded by Thompson, approving the 2012 Prosecution Services with the County Attorney's office in the amount of \$134,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Fire Relief Association

Chattin stated that the Fire Relief Association has requested that the Council appoint a Council representative and the Finance Director, Ron Eischens, to the Fire Relief Association. He noted that by statute the membership must be two elected or appointed municipal officials who are designated by the governing board annually and the Fire Chief.

Hellquist stated he would be willing to serve. Mayor Larson appointed Councilor Hellquist and Eischens to the Fire Relief Association for 2012.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Monday, April 9 5:30 p.m. Work Session – Year 2011 Financial Review
- Monday, April 16 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

- Council members provided updates on current events and meetings.
- Albrecht asked if the Council would be reviewing at a work session the proposal for land purchase by Ettesvold. Nothing was decided.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Negard, seconded by Johnson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Kay M. Murphy
City Clerk