

# CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

## BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

### Regular Meeting – April 20, 2015

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 20, 2015 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, Johnson, Hellquist, Olson, Erickson, Larson

Staff Present: City Attorney Alan Felix, Public Works Director/City Engineer Craig Gray, Finance Director Ron Eischens, Parks & Recreation Director Marcia Larson, City Clerk Kay Murphy

#### **AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA**

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

#### **MINUTES**

The following minutes were presented for approval:

Council Meeting	April 6, 2015
BEDA Meeting	April 6, 2015
Special Meeting	April 7, 2015
Work Session	April 13, 2015

**Motion by Hellquist, 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. **Motion by Olson, seconded by Johnson, to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:**

1. Claims Submitted by Finance Officer in the amount of \$567,946.59
2. Claims Submitted by Venuworks for the Sanford Center in the amount of \$72,667.42
3. 1-4 Day Temporary On-Sale Liquor License – BSU Alumni Association - May 6, 2015
4. **RESOLUTION NO. 5942:** Authorizing Signatures of Certain Officials to Act on Behalf of the City of Bemidji for all Current and Future Accounts, Investments, or Other Financial Relationships
5. **RESOLUTION NO. 5943:** To Not Waive the Monetary Limits on Tort Liability Established by M.S. 466.04 and Appointing Insurance Agent of Record
6. Approved the Purchase of Dugouts for North Country Park from Midwest PlayScapes in the amount of \$18,336.00

**Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

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

No one appeared.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – Cali Benson, BYA representative, reported that they held listening lunches at both BHS and Trek North and planning is going well for the June 7 event. She reported that Commission members will be assisting the Bemidji Fire Department and Red Cross in distributing 400 fire detectors to residents this week.

BSU Student Senate – Alex Miller, Senate member, reported on their efforts noting that they are discussing parking on campus and passed heated sidewalk and transgender bills.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### Neilson-Reise Arena HVAC System

Parks & Recreation Director Marcia Larson stated that the project includes replacement of existing mechanical dehumidification system, replacement of the ventilation and heating system and repairing door seals and caulk cracks in the envelope which allow humidity to infiltrate the building. The project also includes an alternate bid of a low emissivity ceiling (e-ceiling). She stated that this would aid in eliminating moisture condensation and reduce compressor/plant daily operation. The following two bids were received on April 9, 2015:

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Base Bid</u>	<u>Alt. Bid</u>	<u>Total</u>
Peterson Sheet Metal	\$260,800	\$48,000	\$308,800
Naylors Electric	\$265,309	\$53,031	\$318,340

Director Larson stated that the Capital Improvement Plan includes \$330,000 for this project. The bids came in higher than the engineer’s estimate. The budget for this project includes professional service in the amount of \$35,600. She stated that Stevens Engineering and the Parks & Trails Commission are recommending the Council award the bid plus alternate to Peterson Sheet Metal. She stated that the Finance Director recommended that the additional cost could be covered by undesignated funds if the Council chooses to move forward.

Councilor Hellquist stated that the current ceiling in the arena has been torn up by pucks and asked how the low e-ceiling will hold up against pucks. Director Larson responded that the e-ceiling has had good experience in other arenas. Discussion continued on the timeline for the project.

Mayor Albrecht stated that in one of the budget bills there is \$5 million earmarked for the R-22 replacement and the State is getting the message that communities need assistance. Director Larson stated that she has submitted a letter to Amateur Sports letting them know we are interested in being funded. She noted that this project is a good step and could buy some time to explore funding options for the R-22 replacement.

Director Larson noted that it will reduce the pressure on the compressors and the dripping on the ice creates a maintenance “nightmare” and should keep it going to allow the Council time to decide what direction it wants to go.

Councilor Erickson noted that a recent feasibility study identified the cost for R-22 replacement. Larson responded in order to redo the plant, the floor and upgrade the mechanical room is estimated at \$2.2 million. Erickson noted that the State has set aside \$5 million for the entire state that require this R-22 replacement and wanted the public to be aware that the state would not have the money.

Councilor Larson noted that the alternate bid would be necessary to take care of the ice dripping and puts the project over the budget which concerned him.

**Motion by Olson, seconded by Meehlhause, to award the Neilson-Reise Arena HVAC Improvement project base bid and alternate bid to Peterson Sheet Metal in amount of \$308,800. Furthermore, additional funding in the amount of \$14,400 come from the undesignated fund. Motion carried with the following vote: Ayes: Meehlhause, Johnson, Albrecht, Olson. Nays: Hellquist, Erickson, Larson.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

2014 Sanford Center Annual Report

Curtis Webb, Executive Director stated that 2014 was a good year for the Sanford Center and we continue to grow. He stated that there were ten more event days in 2014 than in 2013. He noted that the main revenue source for the center is food and beverage. In addition, he relies on Mike Cronin who looks for ways to decrease their expenses. He reviewed events held in 2014 and will continue to work at bringing a variety of shows to the community. He noted that the estimated 2014 economic and fiscal impact was \$22 million and will continue working on this. In 2015, they will continue to engage the community in an effort to get more patrons to walk through the doors of the Sanford Center.

Johnson commented that the building is versatile. For example, on a weekend the bowl has been changed from an ice show to football and then to a concert.

Erickson asked about the economic impact on hotels and felt that the number was low. Webb responded that he relies on VisitBemidji for those numbers but perhaps there can be another method utilized to track those numbers.

Meehlhause asked about marketing of events. Webb stated that a year ago they added a marketing position that would help but at the end of the day it was not making an impact.

Mayor Albrecht noted that on Wednesday, April 29 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. there will be an Open House for community members to learn about the Event Center.

Plaque Language for the Chief Bemidji Statue

Upon introduction of the topic, Councilor Olson reported that the Public Affairs Committee met prior to the Council meeting and the Committee after discussion moved to recommend

approval of the language as proposed by the Chief Bemidji Statue Committee for all four plaques with a 2:1 vote.

Johnson, who was part of the Public Affairs Committee, noted that he was opposed to the Committee's recommendation as he felt the discussion was needed by the full Council as other Councilor's may have concerns.

Hellquist commented that the content of plaques 2 and 3 was quite a deviation from the origin intent of the project. He recalled that originally it was to be a celebration of the life of Chief Bemidji and that the plaques changed the impact dramatically. He recalled that the City put a substantial amount of money toward the project. He stated he did not look at this as a history lesson and did not believe this was the place for it.

Erickson stated that plaques 1 and 4 honor Chief Bemidji but that 2 and 3 are discussing battles that were not in this area. She stated that words that we carry down in history serve a purpose of either teaching or words of elevation. She stated that the discussion on the plaques regarding the "trader", Andrew Myrick, were words that should be lost to history and do nothing to meld this community closer together. Every time the trader's quote is repeated gives them breathe and life.

Meehlhause stated that there is a lot of mythology behind Shaynowishkung. Meehlhause stated that the plaques are a conversation starter and things are not always black and white.

Olson stated that the plaques put things in historical context. He stated that this is one of the first times that a community has acknowledged that these facts really happened and not all are "fun facts".

Mayor Albrecht stated this is a teaching moment and having the words that are presented on the plaque is an opportunity to acknowledge and tell the truth. She related that the City has been taking baby steps on cultural appreciation and she respects the efforts of the Shared Vision group started years ago.

Johnson commented that this is way too much information on the plaques and suggested that it would have been nice to have more information about the artist and who made it happen.

Larson stated that he has looked at a lot of historical plaques over the years and he felt that plaques 2 and 3 are "too busy" and do not address the goal of the statue. Discussion continued regarding the idea of a pamphlet as a great enhancement or addition to tell the story.

Mary Ringhand, Red Lake member as well as Chief Judge, stated that most of the whole is taken on truth and reconciliation. She stated that this is an important piece and it was distilled down. She stated that the history related in plaques 2 and 3 had an impact on our area. She stated that this would be a healing thing.

Mitch Blessing reviewed the design plans for the plaques and agreed that there is a lot on the plaques. He stated that recognizing things that are painful are the very things we should share and reveal. He concluded by saying the bronze will be there but paper will be gone.

Erickson reiterated that the trader's statement is at the core of her issues with the plaque. She stated that she cannot support plaques 2 and 3. Discussion continued regarding the purpose for the quote by Myrick.

Kathryn "Jody" Beaulieu stated that the plaques are a springboard and additional information will come from this which will provide learning opportunities. She stated this is not just about the man; however, he is your namesake and this is long overdue. She stated that it's about the healing of the communities, about the understanding and not being afraid to let go of some of that "white privilege" of not knowing the truth. Beaulieu asked the Council to be brave and approve the plaques as presented.

**Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Olson, approving the four plaques as presented by the Chief Bemidji Statue Committee. Motion carried with the following vote: Ayes: Meehlhause, Albrecht, Larson, Olson. Nays: Johnson, Erickson, Hellquist.**

#### 5th Street State-Aid Paving

Gray reviewed the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Reconstruction project (City Project #15-02). He indicated that the section of 5<sup>th</sup> Street west of Irvine Avenue has areas of bituminous pavement that need to be replaced. City staff has designed a project that will replace the failing pavement, reconstruct

the concrete valley gutters at Park Avenue and Mississippi Avenue and repair some of the sanitary sewer main that is under the roadway. This street is a MSA road so the majority of the project costs will be paid with our state aid construction account. The following two bids were received on April 14:

Reierson Construction	\$236,941.85
Knife River Materials	\$261,352.63

Gray stated that \$247,000 will be paid from MSA account and the remaining \$28,000 will be funded from the city’s sanitary sewer utility fund.

**Motion by Hellquist, seconded by Johnson, to award the bid for the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Reconstruction (City Project #15-03) to Reierson Construction in the amount of \$236,941.85. Motion carried unanimously.**

**ORDINANCES**

**AN ORDINANCE** Adopting the Minnesota State Building Code was given a first reading.

Pursuant to published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input regarding Amending an Uncoded Section of Bemidji City Code Pertaining to a Street Vacation (Hillside Avenue SW). Mayor Albrecht opened the Public Hearing at 7:44 p.m.

- Brandon McManus stated that he and his neighbor applied for the vacation as Hillside is closed during the winter and becomes a mess during the spring. He stated that it is not a necessary street.
- Judy David, owner of the first property on Hillside Avenue, stated she has no objection to the vacation but had questions on the end of the road. Gray stated it will not be a cul-de-sac with curb and gutter but a bladed turnaround area.

Mayor Albrecht raised a concern about the zoning requirement requiring that lots have full frontage on a street. Felix stated that the Joint Planning Office has been made aware of the vacation request and will bring their input to the Council at their next meeting.

Mayor Albrecht closed the public hearing at 7:52 p.m.

**AN ORDINANCE** Amending an Uncoded Section of Bemidji City Code Pertaining to a Street Vacation (Hillside Avenue SW) was given a second reading.

**ORDINANCE NO. 114, 3<sup>RD</sup> SERIES**, Authorizing the Sale of Property (Former MnDOT Site) (Gould Development LLC) was given a final reading and passed by unanimous vote.

**Motion by Hellquist, seconded by Meehlhause, approving publication of a summary of Ordinance No. 114, 3<sup>rd</sup> Series. Motion carried unanimously.**

Other Business

Dave Kostamo introduced himself as the new chair of the Heritage Preservation Commission.

**UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS**

- Monday, May 4 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting
- Tuesday, May 5 5:00 p.m. Board of Review
- Monday, May 11 5:30 p.m. Work Session – 2016 Financial Management Plan

**COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT**

- Council members provided updates on current events and meetings.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, motion by Hellquist, seconded by Olson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
 Kay M. Murphy  
 City Clerk