

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA
Work Session – Monday, April 22, 2019

Pursuant to due call and notice, a work session of the City Council of the City of Bemidji, Beltrami County, Minnesota, was held on Monday, April 22, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. in the Chambers of City Hall, Mayor Albrecht presiding.

Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Albrecht, Meehlhause, Beard, Johnson, Rivera, Erickson, Thompson.

Staff Present: City Manager Nate Mathews, Parks & Recreation Director Marcia Larson, City Clerk Michelle Miller

Mayor Albrecht stated the purpose of the work session was to review the Bemidji Ice Arena Study.

Ice Study

Larson provided background information since May 2018 when the City Council approved a professional services contract with 292 Design Group to conduct an Ice Feasibility Study. The focus of the study was the Neilson Reise Arena and to determine the role of the City in providing ice arena facilities in the community.

Tom Betti of 292 Design Group, along with Jeff King of Ballard King, stated that the purpose of the study was to conduct a needs assessment and feasibility study for the renovation and/or replacement of the Neilson-Reise Arena and assess the overall ice market in Bemidji.

King reviewed the market analysis and stated that the Bemidji area, based on unmet ice demand, cannot support a fifth sheet of ice. With the market analysis information, Betti provided a conceptual plan to construct a second sheet of ice attached to the Sanford Center with an estimated cost of \$10,472,519. Cost estimates of approximately \$6-10 million were also provided to renovate or replace the Neilson Reise Arena at the current location. King also provided operational cost estimates with various programming variables. The presentation was concluded by posing the question to council does the city want to continue being in the ice business.

Council discussed the following:

- The city should stay in the ice business
- The arena should stay in the existing location
- City offers community ice opportunities that are not available anywhere else
- Community discussion is necessary to obtain feedback

Adjourn

There being no further business, motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Beard, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle R. Miller
City Clerk