

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – April 4, 2016

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 4, 2016 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, Olson, Erickson, Larson. Absent: Hellquist

Staff Present: City Manager Nate Mathews, Public Works Director/City Engineer Craig Gray, Finance Director Ron Eischens, Deputy City Clerk Michelle Miller

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Mayor Albrecht called for any amendments to the agenda. The following item was requested to be removed from New Business (to be moved to April 18 council meeting):

- Consider a Resolution Recognizing the Second Monday of October as Treaty Day.

**Motion by Johnson, seconded by Erickson, to approve the agenda as amended.
Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

MINUTES

The following minutes were presented for approval:

Regular Meeting	March 21, 2016
Special BEDA	March 21, 2016
Work Session	March 28, 2016

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval. Erickson requested that the following item be removed to New Business: Changes to Personnel Policy Regarding Paid-on-Call Firefighter Hiring Policy. **Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Olson, to approve the Consent Agenda items as amended:**

- 1) Claims Submitted by Finance Officer in the amount of \$597,857.94
- 2) Claims Submitted by VenuWorks for the Sanford Center in the amount of \$35,838.86
- 3) Approve Business License Renewals for 2016
- 4) Appoint Councilor Meehlhause to the Beltrami County Historical Society
- 5) Reapportionment of Special Assessment – Marvin Development III LLC (515 Paul Bunyan Drive NW)
- 6) Purchase of an Altoz Mower from T&K Outdoors (\$12,599) - Parks Department
- 7) Roger Lehman Tennis Courts Repair from Bemidji Bituminous (\$10,512) and Court Surface & Repair (\$5,800) – Parks Department
- 8) **RESOLUTION NO. 6005:** Authorizing the City of Bemidji to Host an AmeriCorps Member from the Minnesota GreenCorps Program with the MPCA
- 9) Travel Authorization – Bemidji Day at the Capitol, April 6 – Albrecht, Johnson, Meehlhause

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

No one appeared.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – Sophia Warrick, BYAC Vice President, stated that they April Listening Lunch will include the Parks and Recreation Department talking to members about a Color Run volunteer opportunity on June 23. Planning continues for the J7 event. Members continue to work on the by-laws and code of conduct.

Bemidji State Student Senate – Brittany Hull, BSU Student Senate President, reported that the annual “undie” run will be held in April on campus. This is a run to gather donations of

clothing. A First Annual Senior Dance Off will be held in addition to the senior send-off picnic.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider a Request – Third Street Gateway Arch Project – Bemidji Downtown Authority

Colleen Bakken spoke on behalf of the BDA. The BDA is requesting matching funds from the City to fund the Bemidji Downtown Gateway Arch Project to be located at the intersection of Third Street and Paul Bunyan Drive. The Gateway will feature piers that replicates those on the Mississippi River Bridge and use of materials similar to structures in downtown Bemidji. The BDA has already received approval from MnDOT of the design of the gateway. Existing planters will be replaced with the pillars and new plantings will be constructed around the pillars. The goal of the gateway is to pull the tourists from the Paul Bunyan and Babe statues into the downtown area. The total budget for the project is \$75,500 with a matching amount from the City not to exceed \$40,000. The BDA has already pledged \$10,000 with \$1,000 from the Chamber and \$2,000 from downtown businesses for the project. The anticipated completion date is 2017.

Motion by Erickson, seconded by Johnson, to support the Third Street Gateway Arch Project and pledging 2017 City funds for 50% of the project not to exceed \$40,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider Bid Award for Birchmont Drive Storm Sewer – City Project 16-02

Gray reported that the existing storm sewer system for that portion of Birchmont Drive lying north of Diamond Point Park has deteriorated and needs to be reconstructed. This project will reconstruct the storm sewer system and clean and expand the small storm water treatment pond in the park. Gray stated that staff designed the project and received bids on March 23. Five bids were received with the low bidder being M & T Excavating for \$116,072.20. The project will be funded from storm water utility funds. M & T Excavating is a local contractor, has done previous work for the City and does excellent work.

Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Erickson, to award the bid for Birchmont Drive Storm Sewer, City Project 16-02, to M & T Excavating in the amount of \$116,072.20. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider a Development Agreement with B&B Cottages, LLC

Gray provided a proposed Development Agreement between the City, the Joint Planning Board and B&B Cottages, LLC. This project is for proposed condominiums to be constructed on the north side of 30th Street just east of Hannah Avenue. The reason for the development agreement with the City is due to the developer installing sanitary sewer mains and water mains which will be turned over to the City after completion of the project. Gray stated that the storm water management system will remain private. In addition, the streets and utilities will be constructed in two phases. The developer will own and maintain the Phase 1 water main until it is looped during Phase 2. Councilmembers Johnson, Olson and Erickson expressed concern of bringing this to the city for approval before the joint planning process and potentially setting a precedence for future developers to want to come for approval to the City first before the JPB. Through the Joint Planning process, the potential final approvals from the JPB could be May 11. The Development Agreement that is before the Council for approval deals with the interaction relating to the City requirements of the agreement. JPB requirements will still need to go before the Joint Planning Board.

Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Larson, approving the Development Agreement with B&B Cottages, LLC, contingent upon approvals by the Joint Planning Board. Motion passed with the following vote: Ayes – Meehlhause, Johnson, Larson, Albrecht, Olson. Nays – Erickson. Absent – Hellquist

Changes to Personnel Policy Regarding Paid-on-Call Firefighter Hiring Policy

Erickson pulled this item from the consent agenda to discuss the wording in the proposed changes to Policy 201.207 – Paid-on-Call Firefighter Hiring Policy. Erickson questioned the use of the word “may” as opposed to “shall” under paragraph 13 of the proposed changes to the policy dealing with membership to the Bemidji Firefighter’s Relief Association. Erickson reported that she supports the policy but doesn’t understand the use of the word “may”. She feels that membership should be an automatic benefit and not an optional benefit. Mathews stated this section deals with the option for firefighters to become a member of the Relief Association. He stated there could be circumstances where a firefighter could choose not to apply for membership or upon application could be deemed ineligible for membership.

Motion by Erickson, seconded by Olson, adopting the changes to the Paid-on-Call Firefighter Hiring Policy (Section 201.207 of the Personnel Policies). Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCES

AN ORDINANCE Amending the Bemidji City Code Entitled, “2016 Fee Schedule” was given a first reading.

Pursuant to published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input regarding an Ordinance Amending Chapter 4 of the Bemidji City Code Entitled, “Alcoholic Beverages” by Amending Provision Relating to Section 4-95 Sunday Sales. Mayor Albrecht opened the Public Hearing at 7:02 p.m., hearing no comments the public hearing was closed.

AN ORDINANCE Amending Chapter 4 of the Bemidji City Code Entitled, “Alcoholic Beverages” by Amending Provision Relating to Section 4-95 Sunday Sales was given a second reading.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Monday, April 11 5:30 p.m. Work Session - 2015 Financial Review
- Monday, April 18 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting
- Monday, April 25 5:30 p.m. Special Work Session – City Manager’s Performance Review

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

- Council members provided updates on current events and meetings.
- Mathews stated that a Task Force is being created to review the vision, objective and structure of VisitBemidji. Council agreed that Reed Olson and Ron Johnson would sit on that task force.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Meehlhause, to close the meeting in accordance with Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.05, Subd. 3(b), for the purpose of reviewing confidential or non-public appraisal data relating to the acquisition of real property, as well as to develop or consider offers or counter-offers for the purchase of said property. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting closed at 7:20 p.m.

Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Olson, to reopen the meeting at 7:56 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Johnson to withdraw the offer for the Rako property and to remove that property from the listing agreement with the realtor and directing the City Manager to communicate with the developer of the issues relating to the Rako property.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Johnson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle R. Miller
Deputy City Clerk