

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – April 7, 2014

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 7, 2014 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, Deputy City Clerk Teresa Hanson

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Mayor Albrecht added Tim Terrill from the Mississippi Headwaters Board to the agenda as item #4a and called for any further amendments to the agenda. **Motion by Johnson, seconded by Thompson, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

MINUTES

The following minutes were presented for approval:

Council Meeting	March 17, 2014
Sp Work Session	March 24, 2014

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval. **Motion by Erickson, seconded by Meehlhause, to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:**

1. Claims submitted by the Finance Officer in the total amount of \$582,238.18
2. Claims submitted by Venuworks for the Sanford Center in the total amount of \$86,405.63
3. Miscellaneous Business License Renewals for 2014
4. 1-day Consumption & Display Permit – Chamber Event on 4/8/2014
5. **RESOLUTION NO. 5884:** Approving the Site for the 2014 Kraus-Anderson Walleye Classic – June 7
6. **RESOLUTION NO. 5885:** Authorizing Certain Improvements to a Portion of TH197 & Irvine Avenue (ADA / Signal Enhancements)
7. Approved a Senior Citizen Deferral
8. Travel Authorization – Mayor’s Conference, Fergus Falls – April 25-26 – Mayor Albrecht
9. Travel Authorization - LMC Annual Conference, St. Cloud – June 18-20 – Johnson, Meehlhause

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

Amos Miller (712 Bemidji Ave N), a city resident and bartender at a downtown establishment, expressed concern about the new downtown parking regulations and how some patrons may not make correct decisions after drinking if they are afraid their vehicle will be ticketed or towed if left downtown overnight. In addition, the new regulations may deter some from patronizing downtown businesses at all. Mike Bredon supported Miller’s statements, shared his concerns and stated the new regulations may actually encourage drinking and driving. He thinks something needs to be done, but believes the new regulations should have been reviewed and voted upon by the City Council.

Gray indicated discussion was initiated by the Bemidji Downtown Alliance (BDA) due to several complaints. The BDA, City Public Works and Police Departments worked together to review and find solutions for downtown parking issues. Some issues discussed included snow removal, abandoned vehicles, inconsistent rules and enforcement, limited parking during the day as well as limited parking in the evening for downtown residents. Gray stressed the fact the city can regulate the lots in three ways – to allow for easy snow removal, to allow nearby residents to park their cars in the lot, or to allow people to park

their cars overnight. Since the city cannot meet all three needs, the BDA and Police Chief put a higher emphasis on the first two options resulting in the new signage as proposed by the BDA, which will allow for easier snow removal and better enforcement by the Police Department.

Gray shared a picture of one of the new signs, which clearly states the lot closure time from 2-6 a.m. and towing regulations. He also noted the Police Department does not want people to operate a vehicle while intoxicated so their options include planning ahead for a sober driver, purchasing a permit from the BDA for a lot near their favorite establishment, walking or taking a cab to and from downtown or paying the \$20 parking ticket instead of chancing an accident or DWI.

Further discussion followed on whether the regulations will be enforced year-round and when vehicles will be towed rather than ticketed. Olson agreed to initiate further discussion at the next BDA meeting and will report back to the Council.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – Meehlhause reported the commission met April 6th and are in the process of planning the June 7th Youth Rally, and they watched Star Wars episodes IV and V.

BSU Student Senate – Kari Cooper, Student Senate Co-President, stated the spring delegates conference of the Minnesota State University Student Association will be held this weekend and two BSU students will be running for state officer positions. Cooper is running for State Chair and Laura Duscher is running for Vice Chair. The 3rd annual “Undie Run” will be held on April 8th (participants layer on as many articles of clothing as they can and as they complete a short run they remove clothing and cross the finish line in their undies! However, they do not have to disrobe if they don’t want to. The clothing collected will be donated to the Free Store on campus or other organizations in Bemidji). Student Achievement Day will be held April 9th, BSU has 5 weeks of school left and BSU Student Senate elections for the fall will be held April 14-18th.

Librarian’s Report - Paul Ericsson, Branch Manager, distributed the spring schedule for the Bemidji Public Library and “Help Your Child Get Ready to Read” handout regarding early literacy. One of their goals is to teach parents and caregivers about the importance of literacy and give them the tools to help children learn to read. He also noted a poetry slam will be held April 12th, Community Education will host GED Graduation on April 24th and singer/songwriter Lauren Pelon will perform at the Paul Bunyan Playhouse on April 25th.

Tim Terrill, Executive Director - Mississippi Headwaters Board (MHB) – The MHB was established in 1980 under Minnesota Statutes to identify and protect the natural, cultural, scenic, scientific and recreational values of the Mississippi River’s first 400 miles. The MHB is a consortium of 8 counties (Aitkin, Beltrami, Cass, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Itasca and Morrison) to establish guidelines and minimum standards for cooperative local management and protection of the region. Terrill stated MHB would like to offer the City a non-traditional grant and referral to Shawn Tracy, a Water Resources Scientist with HDR, Inc. in Minneapolis, to do restoration planning, preliminary cost estimates and create development or improvement options to help reduce phosphorus levels. He noted they request a 10% in-kind local match of funds.

Olson asked if the MHB would support and/or endorse the City’s request for legislative action to assist with the cleanup of the south shore. Terrill responded they would offer support of the project and may be able offer other assistance as well.

Following further discussion and clarification, Gray indicated he would contact Tracy to discuss the process of reviewing the current systems, looking at other drainage options, flood areas and possible improvements.

NEW BUSINESS

2014 Street Reconstruction (City Project No. 14-01A)

Gray summarized the project, which includes improvements to Lake Avenue from Roosevelt Road to 1st Street and 23rd Street from Bemidji Avenue to Birchmont Drive. Awarding the low bid of \$344,338.63 will result in a total project cost of approximately \$396,000.

RESOLUTION NO. 5886: Awarding the bid for the 23rd Street Reconstruction, City Project No. 14-01A, to Knife River Materials in the amount of \$344,338.63 was offered

by Councilmember Thompson, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Erickson, was passed by unanimous vote.

Nymore Alley Storm Sewer (City Project No. 14-05)

Gray indicated the project was originally planned for last fall, but there wasn't time to complete it before winter. The project was re-bid this spring, which resulted in lower bid amounts. He expects the project will occur in May or as soon as the frost is out to allow work to begin. Funding is included in the approved 2014 Storm Water Utility budget.

Motion by Erickson, seconded by Olson, accepting the quote for the Nymore Alley Storm Sewer (City Project 14-05) to Sparky's Construction in the amount of \$49,353.50. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE

Pursuant to published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input regarding Amending the City of Bemidji Council-Manager Charter Amending Sections 2.05 (Vacancies) and 4.03 (Special Elections). Mayor Albrecht opened the Public Hearing at 7:54 p.m., hearing no comments the public hearing was closed at 7:55 p.m.

AN ORDINANCE Amending the City of Bemidji Council-Manager Charter Amending Sections 2.05 (Vacancies) and 4.03 (Special Elections) was given a second reading.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Monday, April 14 5:30 p.m. Work Session – Energy Audit/Honeywell
- Monday, April 21 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting
- Tuesday, April 22 5:30 p.m. Special Meeting with Chamber (location TBD)

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

- Council members and staff provided updates on current events and meetings.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Olson, seconded by Thompson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Teresa K. Hanson
Deputy City Clerk