

# CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

## BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

### Work Session – May 12, 2014

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, May 12, 2014, at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of City Hall, Mayor Pro-tem Hellquist presiding.

Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Meehlhause, Hellquist, Johnson, Olson, Erickson, Thompson Absent: Albrecht

Staff Present: City Manager John Chattin, Chief of Police Mike Mastin, Fire Chief Dave Hoefer, City Clerk Kay Murphy

Others Present: Chris Muller, Beltrami County Emergency Management Director

#### Emergency Operations Plan

Chris Muller briefly reviewed the purpose of the Emergency Operations Plan. He stated that one of his future goals included dividing into “capabilities-based planning”. In addition, they will be developing a resource manual that will highlight where and who has the needed resources for emergencies. Discussion continued regarding trains traveling through the City and training responders to deal with potential train related accidents.

Hoefer stated that the City’s outdoor warning siren system requires maintenance as it is antiquated. He currently has \$3,300 budgeted annually for upkeep. He stated the Council should make the decision to upgrade the current system or not to have outdoor warning sirens.

Muller recommended that the sirens be upgraded as the currently sirens are unreliable and almost a liability. He estimated that it would cost approximately \$30,000/per siren to upgrade. The City currently has six (6) sirens. He noted that there are outdoor areas that have no protection, i.e., high school fields.

**Motion by Olson, seconded by Meehlhause, to recess the meeting at 6:05 for the purpose of moving to the former Mayflower building. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Mayor Pro-tem Hellquist reconvened the meeting at 6:10 p.m. at the former Mayflower building.**

Staff Present: City Manager John Chattin, City Clerk Kay Murphy

Others Present: Dave Hengel, Greater Bemidji Executive Director; Pete Aube, General Manager at Potlatch; Steve Holley, Owner of North Central Door and President of Greater; Linda Autrey, Kraus Anderson Realty

#### Economic Development Investment Request

Dave Hengel, Greater Bemidji Executive Director, stated that over the past year, he has been cultivating a complex but critical economic development project for Bemidji. Greater Bemidji’s MI2 initiative will continue to provide skill training and job placement activities for the community’s residents as well as create a high performance training and development center at NW Technical College (NTC) as part of the NTC’s reinvention process. In addition, a recruitment suite is also planned for the building which could be used by businesses wooing job applicants, clients and investors. He noted that two businesses have already committed to opening offices in the building.

Hengel requested that the City Council consider a \$150,000 investment using the City’s UDAG funds that are designated for economic development projects. Greater Bemidji would purchase and renovate a building into an Engineering/R&D Accelerator to support new and expanding companies with the resources they need to grow and succeed in Bemidji. He noted that the Neilson Foundation has committed \$450,000 as the lead investor in this project; Greater Bemidji has committed \$200,000; and Beltrami County has committed \$150,000.

**Motion by Thompson, seconded by Meehlhause, to commit \$150,000 from the City’s UDAG fund for the purpose of purchasing the Mayflower building as an incubator site for Greater Bemidji. The stipulation was added that if the building is sold by Greater Bemidji, the City would be repaid in full. Motion carried unanimously.**

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Olson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay M. Murphy  
City Clerk