

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – May 16, 2011

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, May 16, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, Mayor Larson presiding.

Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Larson, Waldhausen, Johnson, Hellquist, Albrecht, Negard, Thompson

Staff Present: City Manager John Chatten, City Attorney Alan Felix, City Engineer Craig Gray, Finance Director Ron Eischens, City Clerk Kay Murphy

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Mayor Larson called for any amendments to the agenda. **Motion by Thompson, seconded by Hellquist, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

MINUTES

Minutes of the May 2, 2011 regular meeting, April 27, 2011 special work session and May 3, 2011 Board of Review were presented for approval. The City Clerk noted a correction to the Board of Review minutes. **Motion by Hellquist, seconded by Albrecht, to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Claims submitted by the Finance Officer in the total amount of \$420,464.55
2. Claims submitted by the Sanford Center in the total amount of \$581,019.46
3. Miscellaneous Business License Renewals for 2011
4. 1-Day Temporary Consumption & Display Permit – Chamber on 06/14/11
5. Declare Surplus Equipment – 1994 Ford Pickup and 1995 F250 Pickup – Street Department
6. **RESOLUTION NO. 5694:** To Not Waive the Monetary Limits on Tort Liability Established by M.S. 466.04 and Appointing Insurance Agent of Record
7. **RESOLUTION NO. 5695:** Accepting Donation from North Country Snowmobile Club in the amount of \$3,250 for use by the Bemidji Public Library
8. Award of Quote for 2011 Storm Sewer Maintenance Project (7th Street & Mississippi Ave) to Sparky's Construction in the amount of \$25,397 (#11-05)
9. Award of Quote for 2011 Street Maintenance Project (3rd Street & Minnesota Avenue) to J.D. Hansen & Sons Inc. in the amount of \$26,566 (#11-06)
10. Renewal of Road Maintenance Agreement with Eckles Township (Balsam Road NW)

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

Captain Obach, National Guard US Army, provided information regarding Yellow Ribbon Communities. The Yellow Ribbon Community is made up of a diverse group of citizens and community leaders uniting key areas within local communities to leverage existing support activities, build awareness and take action to recognize and support service members, and military families. Obach stated that in the near future there will be a city-wide open house for the community to begin creating a Yellow Ribbon Network in Bemidji.

Mayor Larson commented that there are interested groups in the area and the components available.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – Andrew Sherf, BYA President, stated that the Commission's focus is on the June 7 event. Sherf stated that the June 7 event is on a school night and wondered what could be done regarding the City's curfew.

Motion by Waldhausen, seconded by Hellquist, to suspend enforcement of the curfew requirement on June 7 until 11:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Pine Haven Townhomes

Steve Kueppers, Kueppers Architects & Builders, stated that for the third time they are seeking City Council support for a 30 unit multi-family housing project. He commented that the last application was one or two points from receiving funding. He reviewed the project financing stating that 9 percent would come from a tax credit program administered by the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA).

RESOLUTION NO. 5696: In Support of a Housing Tax Credit Application by Pine Haven Townhomes for a Proposed 30 unit Multi-Family Housing Project was offered by Councilmember Hellquist, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Albrecht, was passed by unanimous vote.

Evergreen House

Rebecca Schueller, Executive Director of Evergreen House, reviewed their request for City support of a waiver of the building permit fees and WAC/SAC fees for Bemidji’s new youth supportive housing project. She stated that their target population is homeless youth and young adults, primarily ages 18-21. Evergreen intends to have 24-7 building coverage for resident safety and security. In addition, they also will have a housing case manager on-site up to 40-hours each week who will address independent living goals with residents. She stated that City Council support is essential to demonstrate local support for the project, which will help leverage \$2 million in funding needed for the project. The application deadline to the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency for their Super RFP is the middle of June.

Council discussed the City’s current moratorium policy. Felix stated that the City’s moratorium on donations is to non-profits, however, the Council has made exceptions, i.e., Hope House, Pine Haven and Habitat for Humanity. Chattin commented that it is worth the Council’s effort to look at the context under which they are willing to support housing projects.

Consensus of the Council was to table the Evergreen request and have a special work session to discuss the City’s donation policy on June 6 at 6 p.m. (prior to the regular Council meeting).

Motion by Hellquist, seconded by Albrecht, to table the Evergreen Request for support for Bemidji Youth Supportive Housing Project until June 6. Motion carried unanimously.

Upstream TV

Jeremiah Liend, President Upstream TV, stated the recent Public Affairs Committee meeting with City Council members was a great beginning. Upstream’s request for PEG fees include:

Office Equipment	\$300	
Production Cameras	\$8,515	
Production Computers	\$3,000	
Server & Master Computer	\$9,785	
Software	\$400	
Studio Lease	\$6,000	(3 years)
Studio Improvements	\$2,000	

Johnson commented that there may be a good partnership with Upstream TV to assist with the City’s government access in the future.

Felix stated that Upstream TV’s representatives must work with the Finance Director regarding the funds.

Motion by Albrecht, seconded by Johnson, to approve Upstream TV’s request for PEG fees in the amount of \$30,000 to be utilized as proposed. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCES

AN ORDINANCE Amending Chapter 10, Article II of the Bemidji City Code Relating to Rental Housing Registration Code was given a first reading.

AN ORDINANCE Amending the 2011 Fee Schedule was given a first reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 64, 3RD SERIES, AN ORDINANCE Amending an Uncoded Section of Bemidji City Code Pertaining to Alley Vacation (St. Philip’s Church) was given a final reading and passed by unanimous vote.

Motion by Hellquist, seconded by Waldhausen, approving publication of a summary of Ordinance No. 64, 3rd Series. Motion carried unanimously.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Monday, May 23 5:30 p.m. Special Work Session – Finalize Sanford Center Project
- Monday, June 6 6:00 p.m. Special Work Session
- Monday, June 6 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting
- Monday, June 13 5:30 p.m. Work Session – Park Plan Review

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

- Council members provided updates on current events and upcoming meetings.
- Chattin stated that the special work session on May 23 with Leo A Daly and Kraus-Anderson is on schedule. He further stated that it will be a long work session.
- Waldhausen reported that LGU's met recently regarding a uniform rental ordinance that will help with future annexations. He noted that Northern Township currently does not have a rental ordinance. He further stated that BSU neighborhoods are developing proactive ideas to improve their neighborhoods. They will begin approaching rentals in late July and early August regarding City ordinance requirements.
- Albrecht stated that the Public Arts Committee will meet this week as they continue to develop policy/guidelines for accepting or rejecting art on Sanford Center property.
- Johnson noted that the St. Paul CMGC lobby day was postponed. He stated that the Airport Authority approved a jetway at the Airport.
- Hellquist stated that the wayfinding kiosk to be placed by the Tourist Information Center will have 26 businesses and 4 city locations on it. He stated that the DDA will be refocusing their efforts next year on Project Pride.
- Chattin stated that he has been in contact with Bill Maki, BSU, regarding their parking study and he will be included in discussions in this regard.
- Felix reported that conversion fees are a one-time fee charged when converting a single family home to a rental. He did not find variable conversion fees based on area. He will be including some language regarding conversion fees for the Council's consideration at the 2nd reading of the ordinance as well as a conversion fee on the amended fee schedule.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Hellquist, seconded by Thompson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay M. Murphy
City Clerk