

# CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

## BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

### Regular Meeting – May 18, 2020

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 18, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, Mayor Albrecht presiding via video and telephone conference.

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

Staff Present: City Manager Nate Mathews, City Attorney Alan Felix, Assistant City Attorney Katie Nolting, City Engineer Craig Gray, City Clerk Michelle Miller

#### **AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA**

Mayor Albrecht called for any amendments to the agenda. **Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Johnson, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

#### **MINUTES**

The following minutes were presented for approval:

Council Meeting: May 4, 2020

**Motion by Johnson, seconded by Erickson, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Rivera, Erickson, Meehlhause, Albrecht, Johnson. Absent: Thompson**

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Albrecht called for any items to be pulled from the consent agenda. The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval. **Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Erickson, to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:**

1. Claims Submitted by Finance Officer in the amount of \$576,693.50
2. Claims Submitted by VenuWorks for the Sanford Center in the amount of \$12,230.26
3. Approve 2020 General Business License(s)
4. Declare Surplus Equipment – 1998 R-Way Semi Trailer
5. Approve Appointment to Public Arts Commission (Kristi Miller)
6. **RESOLUTION NO. 6297:** Approving Minnesota Gambling Premises Permit for Lawful Gambling to Bemidji Youth Hockey Association Located at The Garden Grill and Pub
7. Waive Various City Permit Fees for Habitat for Humanity – 1719 2<sup>nd</sup> Street SE (\$1,626.00)

**Motion carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Rivera, Erickson, Meehlhause, Albrecht, Johnson. Absent: Thompson**

#### **CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA**

No appearance.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **Consider Grant Contract Between State of MN and City of Bemidji (SCDP Grant)**

Mathews reported that the City of Bemidji was awarded a Small Cities Development Grant in the amount of \$388,125 by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development for rehabilitation of single family owner-occupied housing in an area just west of downtown. Mathews stated that these grant dollars could fund projects for approximately 15 homes. In addition to the grant dollars received from the State, there is approximately \$112,500 available through funding sources with the Headwaters Regional Development Commission for these housing rehabilitation projects.

**Motion by Rivera, seconded by Meehlhause Authorizing the Mayor and the City Manager to execute Grant Contract No. CDAP-19-0045-O-FY20 with the State of Minnesota Economic Development. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Erickson, Albrecht, Johnson, Rivera, Meehlhause. Absent: Thompson.**

##### **Consider Contract for Services Between HRDC and City of Bemidji (SCDP Grant)**

With the award of the Small Cities Development Grant with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development in the amount of \$388,125.00, it includes \$50,625 for administration of the grant proceeds. In the past, the City has contracted with Headwaters Regional Development Commission (HRDC) to administer these funds. HRDC is willing to facilitate and has submitted a proposed contract for services for council consideration.

**Motion by Johnson, seconded by Erickson Authorizing the City to enter into a Contract for Services with HRDC in the amount of \$50,625 for the Small Cities Development Program Grant Administration (Grant Contract No. CDAP-19-0045-O-FY20). Motion carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Meehlhause, Johnson, Rivera, Erickson, Albrecht. Absent: Thompson.**

Discuss Policies to Assist Downtown Businesses

Mathews stated that due to the uncertainty of how restaurants will be able to operate over the summer, it was suggested that downtown restaurants be able to use sidewalks, parking spaces or city streets for the use of outdoor dining areas. It was also suggested that liquor license fees be refunded pursuant to a prorated formula. Council discussed the following:

- If possible, considering all businesses, not just downtown businesses.
- Making sure all affected downtown businesses and residents have an opportunity to discuss closure of streets.
- Discuss opportunities and ideas with the Chamber and the Bemidji Downtown Alliance.

Consensus of the council was for the Public Affairs Committee to meet with business owners, the Chamber and the Bemidji Downtown Alliance to provide a recommendation to the council.

**UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS**

- |                  |               |                             |
|------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| • Monday, May 25 | <b>CLOSED</b> | <b>MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY</b> |
| • Monday, June 1 | 6:00 p.m.     | Council Meeting             |

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Johnson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle R. Miller  
City Clerk