

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – May 20, 2013

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 20, 2013 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, City Attorney Alan Felix, Public Works Director/City Engineer Craig Gray, Finance Director Ron Eischens, City Clerk Kay Murphy

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Mayor Albrecht called for any amendments to the agenda. The following items were added under New Business:

- Revolving Loan Request – Tiffany Fettig
- Consider Tree Giveaway – Councilor Erickson

Motion by Thompson, seconded by Meehlhause, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

MINUTES

The following minutes were presented for approval:

Council Meeting	May 6, 2013
Special Work Session	May 6, 2013
Board of Review	May 7, 2013

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval with the addition of appointment of Councilor Erickson on the Revolving Loan Committee. **Motion by Johnson, seconded by Meehlhause, to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:**

1. Claims submitted by the Finance Officer in the total amount of \$879,428.76
2. Claims submitted by Venuworks for the Sanford Center in the total amount of \$192,731.85
3. Miscellaneous Business License Renewals for 2013
4. 1 Day Temporary Consumption & Display Permit – Art Center on June 7
5. Temporary On Sale 3.2 Beer License – Bemidji Jaycees – Sunday, July 7
6. Wine and 3.2 On Sale Beer Licenses – Minnesota Nice Café (313 Irvine Avenue NW)
7. Liquor License Transfer from Blue Ox to the Depot on 1st, Inc. – 128 1st Street West, (conditioned with correction of all outstanding Fire Code violations and/or deficiencies within 15 days of issuance)
8. Liquor License for Buffalo Wild Wings located at 225 Bemidji Avenue N. (Opening will be in August or September)
9. Reapportionment of Special Assessment - Lot Combination (80.01648.00)
10. Purchase of a 2013 Auto Loader Refuse Truck (2013 Kenworth Chassis from Rihm Kenworth \$134,468.66 and 2013 Heil Rapid Rail 22 yard packer from MacQueen Equipment \$106,963) – Public Works Dept.
11. **RESOLUTION NO. 5837:** Accepting a Donation from the North Country Snowmobile Club (\$2,000 DARE and \$1,000 Public Library)
12. Appointment to Revolving Loan Committee - Erickson

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

Mike Bredon stated concerns regarding the parking requirements in Lot 7. He questioned the need to ticket vehicles parked there during the nighttime hours during the summer months.

Gray stated that he takes direction regarding parking from the Downtown Development Authority (DDA). However, for every good idea there are one or two negative results.

Olson stated that the DDA is not interested in changing the requirements as they have put a lot of time and effort into the current parking lot policy.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – Joe Czapiewski, BYAC Advisor, updated the Council on membership and preparations for the June 7 event.

NEW BUSINESS

Downtown Tree Receptacles

Gray stated that the city has approximately 125 electrical outlets on trees downtown. Many of the outlets were without power and thus not utilized for downtown lights last winter. Bessler Brothers took a look at the lights and have temporarily repaired some of the outlets. However, the State inspector has informed Bessler that any of the outlets that were replaced have to be brought up to code. Bessler Brothers proposes to replace the tree receptacles with GFI receptacles in an in-use cover and then mount them to a new bracket at a cost of \$190/each. In addition, it is recommended that Portable Welding be hired to manufacturer the mounting brackets and remove the existing tree guards at a cost of \$53/each.

Albrecht noted that there is a need to have power sources downtown for events. She suggested there could be a discussion with DDA, Jaycees and perhaps Otter Tail Power to find power sources for events.

Hellquist commented that he did not feel that all the trees need to have power. He further stated he could not support the replacement of the electrical outlets as he has received complaints from businesses on the west end of town about the city paying for tree lights elsewhere.

Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Thompson, authorizing Bessler Electric to replace the downtown tree outlets at a cost of \$190/each and Portable Welding to fabricate and weld the posts at a price of \$53/each utilizing funds from the 2012 unallocated budget surplus. Motion carried with the following vote: Ayes: Albrecht, Thompson, Meehlhause, Erickson, Johnson, Olson. Nays: Hellquist.

Revolving Loan Request

Tiffany Fettig, HRDC, reviewed a Revolving Loan Request in the amount of \$100,000 from St. Michel Retail Group, Inc. dba St. Michel Furniture. The RLF Loan Committee recommended approval of the loan request with the following contingencies: 1) written loan commitment from primary lender; and 2) copy of executed lease with terms similar to those disclosed. Fettig stated that the Council could consider a lower amount to lend St. Michel as they could request additional GAP funding from the Northwest Foundation. She noted that if there was another GAP funding source, City would share the second collateral position with that entity.

Hellquist questioned if this was the direction the City Council wanted to take its revolving loan fund.

Erickson stated that this business would create 6 to 10 jobs with benefits and a better use of a building then leaving it sitting vacant.

City Attorney Felix commented that the revolving loan fund was derived from the Union Square project.

Fettig introduced Rob St. Michel, owner of St. Michel Furniture.

Motion by Erickson, seconded by Meehlhause, approving the loan request for gap financing to St. Michael Retail Group, Inc. in the amount of \$65,000 with the terms as recommended from the RLF Loan Committee. Motion carried with the following vote: Ayes: Johnson, Olson, Erickson, Albrecht, Thompson, Meehlhause. Nays: Hellquist.

Tree Giveaway Request

Councilor Erickson stated a number of years ago she along with former Councilor Meuers were part of a tree giveaway. She would like the Council to consider another tree giveaway for city residents to help replace some of the trees that went down in last summer's storm. She requested up to \$1,000 to cover the cost of purchasing trees and advertising.

Motion by Erickson, seconded by Olson, to purchase trees for giveaway to city residents utilizing Surplus General Funds in an amount not to exceed \$1,000. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCES

AN ORDINANCE Vacating a Paper Alley (Located in Block 4 of Henderson’s Addition) was given a first reading.

AN ORDINANCE Amending an Uncoded Section of the Bemidji City Code (Authorizing the Sale of Real Property) (Emily Holmer) was given a first reading.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Monday, June 3 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting
- Monday, June 10 5:30 p.m. Work Session – 2014 Budget
- Monday, June 17 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

- Council members provided updates on current events and meetings.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Meehlhause, to recess the meeting to the Conference Room. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Erickson, seconded by Meehlhause, to close the meeting in accordance with Minnesota Statute Section 13D.05, Subd. 3(b) for the purpose of discussing with legal counsel threatened or pending litigation with Bemidji Township. Motion passed unanimously. Public hearing closed at 8:25 p.m.

Motion by Meehlhause seconded by Hellquist to reopen the meeting at 9:49 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Hellquist, seconded by Meehlhause, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay M. Murphy
City Clerk