

# CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

## BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

### Regular Meeting – May 21, 2018

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 21, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, Mayor Albrecht presiding.

Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Albrecht, Meehlhause, Hellquist, Johnson, Lehmann, Erickson. Absent: Larson.

Staff Present: City Manager Nate Mathews, City Attorney Alan Felix, Finance Director Ron Eischens, Public Works Director/City Engineer Craig Gray, Fire Chief David Hoefer, City Clerk Michelle Miller

#### **AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA**

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

#### **MINUTES**

The following minutes were presented for approval:

Regular Council: May 7, 2018  
Board of Review: May 7, 2018

**Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Erickson, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval. The following request was removed from the Consent Agenda by Lehmann: Travel Authorization of Albrecht on June 4-5 for the Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative. **Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Hellquist, to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:**

1. Claims Submitted by Finance Officer in the amount of \$411,311.62
2. Claims Submitted by VenuWorks for the Sanford Center in the amount of \$195,915.43
3. Miscellaneous Business Licenses for 2018
4. Miscellaneous Liquor Licenses for 2018
5. Approve Appointment of Debra Warren to the Housing & Redevelopment Commission
6. Purchase a 2018 Ford Interceptor SUV from Hibbing Ford (\$31,573.45)
7. Transfer of a Full Liquor of Three Less One, Inc., d/b/a Bar 209 from 209 Minnesota Avenue to 217 Minnesota Avenue NW
8. Award Quote for 2018 Sanitary Sewer Slip Lining Project to Visu-Sewer (\$96,337.50)
9. **RESOLUTION NO. 6156:** Approving Temporary Off-Premises Alcohol Permit and Street Closure for a Community/Customer Appreciation Event for Bar 209
10. **RESOLUTION NO. 6157:** Approving the Site and Alcohol for the 2018 Knights of Columbus Walleye Classic
11. Travel Authorization – CGMC Summer Conference, July 24-27 – Johnson

**Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

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

No appearance.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – Nancy Poole reported on the continued planning for the June 7 annual event.

#### **REPORTS**

Tiffany Fettig, Business Loan Consultant with Headwaters Regional Development Commission, summarized the background and provided an update on the outstanding loan balance and the current fund balance available in the City of Bemidji Revolving Loan Fund. The Railroad Corridor and the South Shore Development Area are the two priority zones for which revolving loan funds can be used for. As identified in the policy, a loan committee was established to review requests. Mathews suggested that the loan committee meet and review the policy. Fettig will follow up with scheduling that meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS****Consider Request of Fire Chief to Enter into a Lease for Fire Station 4 and add Eight Additional Paid-on-Call Firefighters**

Hoefler identified a need for an additional fire station in the northern part of the fire protection service area. The proposed lease site is located on the corner of Highway 71 North and Winter Sumac Road NE. The Fire Department Long Range Planning Committee has a goal of having an operational north side fire station by early 2019. That would give the department time to enter into a lease and recruit and train eight additional paid-on-call firefighters. Hoefler estimates that the annual cost would be \$24,000 which includes the additional firefighters. The Long Range Planning Committee and the Public Affairs Committee have approved the need for a northern fire station.

**Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Hellquist to authorize the Fire Chief to enter into a lease for a north side fire station and recruit eight additional paid-on-call firefighters. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

**Consider Resolution in Support of 33-Unit Supportive Housing Development and the Project Proponent's Housing Tax Credit Application Efforts (Headwaters Housing Development Corporation)**

Mary Thompson, Operations Director with Headwaters Regional Development Commission, presented a request for support from the City of Bemidji for the Headwaters Housing Development Corporation's proposed 33-unit supportive housing development in the City of Bemidji and to seek tax credits to facilitate the project construction financing. Thompson stated that the proposed site is located north of the existing Conifer Estates located on Conifer Avenue NW. Other entities have pledge support of this project, including Beltrami County Housing and Redevelopment Authority who has donated the land; Headwaters Housing Development who is the developer and also commitments from Red Lake and Leech Lake to provide rental assistance money. Bi-Cap will also be able to provide long-term housing vouchers. If the project is funded the completion date is expected to be the spring of 2020. Thompson also provided preliminary design documents of the project. She stated that each apartment has individual entries, individual laundry as well as opportunity for cold storage. Units will be available for long-term homeless individuals, people with mental or physical disabilities and low income applicants. DW Jones will be the facilities manager and as well as having an onsite manager. Case management will also be available to residents.

**RESOLUTION NO. 6158: A Resolution in Support of Proposed 33 Unit Supportive Housing Development and the Project Proponent's Housing Tax Credit Application Efforts was offered by Councilor Hellquist and upon due second by Councilor Erickson passed with the following vote: Ayes: Albrecht, Meehlhause, Hellquist, Johnson, Lehmann, Erickson. Absent: Larson.**

**Consider Travel Authorization – Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative, June 4-5 – Albrecht Lehmann** expressed a concern of the value that this travel will bring to the city. Albrecht stated that she was invited to attend the event in New Orleans as a part of UN Environment Day as well as the city's membership in MRCTI and Bemidji's sister-city relationship with New Orleans. The cost of the travel and hotel will be paid by MRCTI and the event organizers. Albrecht provided background of the Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative as well as the importance of Bemidji to participate in the initiative and the event. Albrecht also stated that the 2020 Annual Conference of MRCTI will be held in Bemidji at the Sanford Center.

**Motion by Erickson, seconded by Meehlhause to approve the travel authorization request for Albrecht on June 4-5 for the Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

**ORDINANCE**

Felix stated that since the first reading of the ordinance, many changes were made to update the language in the ordinance to be more informative and clarify the owners request for annexation by ordinance. He advised that council should make a motion to adopt the proposed changes before moving on to the public hearing and second reading.

**Motion by Erickson, seconded by Johnson to adopt the changes to the ordinance. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

Felix further stated that the City received an objection from John Steffenhagen, the attorney for Bemidji Township, through Jim Thomson, our attorney regarding the township litigation.

Pursuant to published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input regarding an Ordinance Annexing Property Along Fifteenth Street NW to the Corporate Limits of the City of Bemidji (Hard Rock Investments, LLC). Mayor Albrecht opened the Public Hearing at 7:16 p.m.

Doug Fuller, 2004 Grotte Avenue, stated that he is one of the owners of the property and provided zoning background on the property.

The following individuals expressed objection to the annexation:

- Lowell Vagle, Bemidji Township
- John Piprude, 2210 Fox Drive NW
- Milton Jones, 2031 Fox Drive NW
- Kirk Anderson, 3091 15<sup>th</sup> Street NW
- Steven Brown, 3009 15<sup>th</sup> Street NW

Christina Lundquist, 2888 15<sup>th</sup> Street NW, understands the desire of the property owner requesting annexation, however, she has an easement to her property and does not want the annexation to impede the use of her driveway.

Albrecht closed the public hearing at 7:37 p.m.

**AN ORDINANCE**, Annexing Property Along Fifteenth Street NW to the Corporate Limits of the City of Bemidji (Hard Rock Investments, LLC) was given a second reading.

**ORDINANCE NO. 148, 3<sup>RD</sup> SERIES**, AN ORDINANCE Amending the Bemidji City Code, Adopting an Amended 2018 Fee Schedule was given a final reading and passed by unanimous vote.

**Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Lehmann, approving publication of a summary of Ordinance No. 148, 3<sup>rd</sup> Series. Motion carried unanimously.**

**UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS**

- **Tuesday, May 29**                      **5:30 p.m.**                      Work Session – BYAC discussion and preliminary discussion on upcoming strategic planning session
- Monday, June 4                      5:00 p.m.                      Public Affairs Committee (Liquor Store Financing Options)
- Monday, June 4                      6:00 p.m.                      Council Meeting

**COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT**

- Council members provided updates on current events and meetings.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Hellquist, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle R. Miller  
City Clerk