

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA
Special Meeting/Work Session – May 22, 2017

Pursuant to due call and notice, a special meeting/work session of the City Council of the City of Bemidji, Beltrami County, Minnesota, was held on Monday, May 22, 2017, at 6:08 p.m. in the Conference Room of City Hall, Mayor Albrecht presiding.

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

Staff Present: City Manager Nate Mathews, City Attorney Alan Felix, Finance Director Ron Eischens, City Engineer Craig Gray, Liquor Store Supt. Kevin Fenner, Lead Clerk Kori Skumavc, City Clerk Kay Murphy

Litigation – Skyline Village

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Larson, to close this meeting in accordance with Minnesota Statute Section 13D.05, Subd. 3(b) for the purpose of discussing with the City Attorney threatened or pending litigation with regards to Skyline Village. All voted aye. Meeting closed at 6:10 p.m.

Attendance: Mathews, Felix, Eischens, Gray, Murphy
Via Phone: Jim Thomson, Kennedy & Graven

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Larson, to reopen the meeting. All voted aye. Meeting opened at 6:26 p.m.

Sunday Liquor Sales

City Attorney Felix stated that the discussion on whether to be open on Sundays is a business decision by the City Council. He stated that the City's ordinance incorporates the State statute and does not require any amendment.

Eischens stated that the state legislature has passed into law allowing cities the ability to sell alcohol on Sunday between the hours of 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. He reviewed the following options:

- Remain closed on Sunday
- Open for hours stated in law
- Open one or both stores
- Open for reduced hours (11 a.m. to 5 p.m. for example)

Eischens stated that in making their decision, the Council should consider the cost of being open an additional day, i.e., labor costs. He estimated that Sunday sales required to cover the additional labor costs and meet normal operating costs/margins would be \$4,400, or 191 customers.

Councilor Johnson stated that Bemidji is a regional center and wondered if there was potential for new market.

Mathews stated that he has spoken with the surrounding liquor stores and they had no desire to be open on Sunday. He noted that their response was that if we were open, they would do likewise.

Kevin Fenner, Supt. Liquor Stores, stated that he believes it would "cannibalize" our sales from Friday and Saturday. He further commented that the stores being open on Sunday would be for convenience.

Councilmembers discussed the idea of being open on Sunday and the general feeling was that it would not be worth it economically. However, they could revisit it and change it in the future. Council directed staff to keep them informed of any changes.

Feasibility Study for Water Quality Concerns

City Engineer Gray stated that the City has been under a health advisory and staff have been blending the water from the various wells to keep the PFCs within acceptable levels. Barr has submitted a proposal for the preparation of a scoping feasibility study to assist the City with addressing the occurrence of PFOS and PFHxS in its water supply. Barr

Engineering will look at a permanent solution and outline treatment options. The estimated cost for their services is \$29,000 to \$39,000. Gray indicated that money is available in the City's Water Utility Fund.

Felix stated that Barr Engineering has worked with the City for a number of years and they are familiar with the City's water system.

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Plemel, accepting Barr Engineering Co. proposal to prepare a preliminary feasibility study for PFC-related water quality concerns in an amount not to exceed \$39,000, utilizing Water Utility Funds. All voted aye. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Larson, seconded by Johnson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay M. Murphy
City Clerk