

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA
Work Session – May 23, 2016

Pursuant to due call and notice, a work session of the City Council of the City of Bemidji, Beltrami County, Minnesota, was held on Monday, May 23, 2016, at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of City Hall, Mayor Albrecht presiding.

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

Staff Present: City Manager Nate Mathews, City Attorney Alan Felix, Parks & Recreation Director Marcia Larson, Deputy City Clerk Michelle Miller

Others Present: Tom Kuesel, Kevin Waldhausen

Hockey Day Bemidji

Tom Kuesel and Kevin Waldhausen presented on behalf of a local committee seeking to bring Hockey Day Minnesota to Bemidji in 2018. The projected date would be February 3, 2018. The group is planning on submitting a proposal to Fox Sports North but needs to secure a venue in order to complete their bid for the event. The group looked at several locations but decided that the most ideal location would be the vacant lot in South Shore Addition described as Lot 1, Block 5. As of the date of this meeting, that lot is not under any purchase agreement. The request would include a contingency that if there is an interested party in purchasing the lot that they wouldn't be able to start building until April 2018. The lot is flat and has plenty of space for the outdoor rinks, bleachers and also for the TV trucks and cameras needed to broadcast the event.

This event would bring in thousands of visitors to the area as well several million Fox North viewers in Minnesota. During the Hockey Day event, Fox North highlights the community in addition to broadcasting the featured hockey games. The group is not seeking monetary support; rather, they would like permission to use the venue, as well as in kind support to help pull the event together. The committee will need to raise money and secure sponsorships to host this event. The goal is to raise money for Youth Hockey and building outdoor rinks.

Consensus of the Council is to support this event and the request to use the property. The official request will have to go before BEDA, because the land is owned by BEDA, not the City of Bemidji. The committee will need to speak with officials from the Sanford Center regarding any in kind requests they are seeking from them. City staff will need to consult with the realtor regarding the condition requested for this lot. The committee will present a formal request at a future BEDA meeting together with information regarding the in kind requests.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Olson, seconded by Hellquist, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle R. Miler
Deputy City Clerk