

# CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

## BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

### Regular Meeting – May 4, 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 4, 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, Finance Director Ron Eischens, City Attorney Alan Felix, City Engineer Craig Gray, City Clerk Michelle Miller

#### **AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA**

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

#### **MINUTES**

The following minutes were presented for approval:

Council Meeting: April 20, 2020  
Board of Review: April 27, 2020  
Work Session: April 27, 2020

**Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Johnson, 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. Johnson requested that the bill list for the Sanford Center be pulled for further discussion. Erickson requested that the RLF loan request by Lake Bemidji Bed & Breakfast be pulled for a separate vote. The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval. **Motion by Johnson, seconded by Erickson, to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:**

1. Claims Submitted by Finance Officer in the amount of \$465,238.55
2. **RESOLUTION NO. 6296:** Bemidji City Council to Not Waive the Monetary Limits on Tort Liability Established by M.S. 466.04 and Appointing Insurance Agent of Record
3. Approve Purchase of Tanker Trailer for Wastewater Treatment Facility
4. Approve Emergency COVID-19 RLF Loan to Cherry Berry (\$25,000)

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

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

No appearance.

#### **REPORTS**

COVID-19 update from Sanford Health - Sanford Health Representatives, Susan Jarvis, Dr. David Wilcox, Kelly Hagen and Kayla Winkler reported on the current situation in the area. They reported no community spread. They also reported no hospital related cases as well as no cases in congregate care facilities. Sanford Health Bemidji feels they are prepared for an influx of COVID-19 patients. They report an anticipated surge of cases to occur in the Bemidji area in late May, with cases peaking in August. Health officials now are concerned with patients delaying preventive care services. Focus is now turning to how to open and conduct business safely. Wearing of facial masks is being encouraged. Sanford officials are asking local elected officials to consider local enforcement rules if cases surge after reopening the state.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **Summary of the City Manager's Performance Review**

At the April 27, 2020 work session, the Council reviewed the performance of the City Manager and provided feedback on his performance and 2020 goals presented. Council discussed the challenges ahead with regard to the COVID-19 pandemic and response and the effects on the community as well as the critical water treatment needs facing the City. The council expressed their unanimous support for the city manager.

Consider Award of Quote for 2020 Alley Paving

Gray stated that the 2020 Capital Improvement Plan includes \$30,000 for paving of various alleys within the City. Those funds are combined with storm water maintenance funds to pay for the project. The alleys are selected each year by the street superintendent. It is anticipated that all gravel alleys in the city will be paved by 2022. The alleys being proposed are generally located south of 1<sup>st</sup> Street East, east of Pershing Avenue SE and west of Lake Avenue SE in the Nymore area. Additional alleys located west of Irvine Avenue SW and east of Park Avenue SW are also indicated.

The following quotes were received:

Bemidji Bituminous, Inc.	\$70,000.00
Northern Paving, Inc.	\$72,000.00

In order to significantly lessen the project costs, all of the removals and grading work for these areas will be done by city crews with city equipment prior to having the contractor do the bituminous paving. Funding will consist of \$30,000 (CIP) and \$40,000 from storm water maintenance.

**Motion by Erickson, seconded by Meehlhause, awarding the alley paving quote to Bemidji Bituminous, Inc., in the amount of \$70,000. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Meehlhause, Johnson, Rivera, Erickson, Albrecht. Absent: Thompson.**

Claims Submitted by VenuWorks for the Sanford Center in the amount of \$23,289.85

Johnson questioned the need to pay a management fee as well as the food and beverage commission listed on the bill list. Vickaryous-Hubbard stated that the food and beverage commission was for March events held before the shut-down took effect. With regards to the management fee, Johnson suggests asking if VenuWorks would be willing to consider eliminating or reducing the monthly management fee paid from the City while the building is closed. Albrecht suggested discussing with VenuWorks what service they are providing us and what their staff is doing. Mathews will follow up with Vickaryous-Hubbard and executives with VenuWorks.

**Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Rivera, approving the claims submitted by VenuWorks for the Sanford Center in the Amount of \$23,289.85. Motion carried with the following vote: Yeas: Albrecht, Erickson, Meehlhause, Rivera. Nays: Johnson. Absent: Thompson.**

Emergency COVID-19 RLF Loan to Lake Bemidji Bed & Breakfast

Erickson stated that she reviewed two loan requests as a part of the Revolving Loan Review Committee for Emergency COVID-19 relief in the amount of \$25,000. She supported one of them, but could not support the request from Lake Bemidji Bed & Breakfast due to the risk of repayment of the loan.

**Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Johnson, approving the Emergency COVID-19 RLF Loan to Lake Bemidji Bed & Breakfast in the amount of \$25,000. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Johnson, Rivera, Albrecht, Meehlhause. Nays: Erickson. Absent: Thompson.**

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Monday, May 18      6:00 p.m.      Council Meeting
- **Monday, May 25      CLOSED      MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY**
- Tuesday, May 26      5:30 p.m.      Work Session (2021 Budget FMP)

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Rivera, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle R. Miller  
City Clerk