

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – May 6, 2019

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 6, 2019 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, Beard, Johnson, Rivera, Erickson, Thompson.

Staff Present: City Manager Nate Mathews, City Attorney Alan Felix, Finance Director Ron Eischens, Public Works Director/City Engineer Craig Gray, Police Chief Mike Mastin, Deputy City Clerk Bobbi Karpinski

SWEARING IN CEREMONY – **Police Officers and Police Reserve Officers**

Chief Mastin stated in a time when it is increasingly difficult to hire men and women in this profession we have been fortunate that these two individuals commit to our department and to serving the citizens of Bemidji.

Chief Mastin introduced the Officers and Deputy City Clerk Karpinski swore in the following new police officers: Larry Peterson and Joseph Lorenzi.

Mastin discussed the purpose of the reserve officer program and stated that, since the inception of the Bemidji Reserve Officer program in 2013, Bemidji Reserve Officers have volunteered more than 10,000 hours, which equates to over a quarter million dollars.

Chief Mastin introduced the Officers and Deputy City Clerk Karpinski swore in the following Police Reserve Officers: Grace Naig, Aydemir Basar, Nathan Walbaum, Bailey Anderson, Benjamin Powell, and Adam Roehl.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Beard requested that a discussion of the Sanford Center hiring process be added. Johnson stated he would also like to speak regarding the Sanford Center. **Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Thompson to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

MINUTES

The following minutes were presented for approval:

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|------------------|----------------|
| Work Session: | April 8, 2019 |
| Council Meeting: | April 15, 2019 |
| Board of Review: | April 22, 2019 |
| Work Session: | April 22, 2019 |
| Work Session: | April 29, 2019 |

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval. **Motion by Rivera, seconded by Beard, to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:**

1. Claims Submitted by Finance Officer in the amount of \$1,127,589.69
2. Claims Submitted by VenuWorks for the Sanford Center in the amount of \$95,368.25
3. General Business License Approvals for 2019
4. Temporary 1-4 Day On-Sale Alcohol Permit – Jaycees Water Carnival
5. **RESOLUTION NO. 6224:** Approving the Site & Related Requests for the 75th Annual Jaycees Water Carnival
6. Approve Paint Removal Quote to Mavo Systems (\$10,700) – Carnegie Restoration Project – City Project 18-07
7. Approve Change Order No. 7 – Carnegie Restoration – City Project 18-07
8. Travel Authorization – CGMC Lobby Day – May 8, 2019 - Meehlhause, Johnson
9. Travel Authorization – MN Mayors Together – May 16-17, 2019 - Albrecht

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

No appearance

PUBLIC HEARING**MS4 Permit – Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program**

Gray reviewed the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit which requires an annual meeting to update the Council as well as allow the public to make oral and/or written comments on the adequacy of the City's Storm Water Prevention Program (SWPPP). He highlighted accomplishments in 2018 which included:

1. Completed 23 commercial site plan reviews within the city. Development and designs were reviewed for compliance with city and state runoff treatment and runoff requirements
2. Articles were published in the city's newsletter about storm water management.
3. Updated the City's storm water system map.
4. Inspected the condition of 53 of the 177 City storm sewer outlets and 3 out of 29 city storm water ponds.
5. Erosion Control Residential & Commercial Site Inspections totaled 42 sites.
6. The Street Department used the city's rubber tired back hoe on storm water maintenance on the following:
 - Cleaning ends of culverts (outfalls)
 - Ditch dredging
 - Pond dredging (small ponds or swales)
 - Installing rip rap materials
7. 2,295 LF of storm water pipe cleaned.
8. 2,180 miles of street sweeping which collected 554 cubic yards of street sweepings.
9. Seven manholes and catch basins had minor repairs completed.
10. Eleven cubic yards of material were removed from storm sewer outfalls in ditches.
11. Removed 1,075 CY of sediment from 3 city-owned ponds for cleaning/maintenance.

Gray noted they will continue to expand the required work and provisions that the City of Bemidji needs to do for the MS4 Permit. Each year the department will evaluate and improve its record keeping, providing the most accurate information on file for the MPCA, the public and the City of Bemidji.

Pursuant to published notice, a public hearing was held regarding the MS4 Permit – Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program. Mayor Albrecht opened the hearing at 6:24 p.m. and hearing no comments, Albrecht closed the hearing at 6:24 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS**Manager's Performance Review Summary**

Mayor Albrecht stated that at the April 29, 2019 work session, the council reviewed the city manager's progress on his 2018 goals. The council noted that our growing population and pace of development activity combined with complicated utility issues confirm that the manager has a very complex job, which Mr. Mathews has approached with enthusiasm and creativity. The city manager demonstrates a firm understanding of municipal issues and successfully completed several goals this year.

Council provided feedback on his performance and made suggestions for areas of improvement and opportunities for professional development. Additionally, the council expressed their full support for the city manager and affirmed their appreciation for his initiative and accomplishments.

MnDOT Request for Highway 197 Letter of Support

Gray noted the USDOT has announced that \$900 million will be available for another round of BUILD grants. The maximum grant is \$25 million dollars. MnDOT may submit up to three projects and our district has requested a letter of support for funding the reconstruction of Highway 197. MnDOT will be narrowing their list to three projects by May 16. If funding is obtained, MnDOT is estimating construction to occur sometime between 2023 and 2025. The total cost of the project is about \$20 Million.

Motion by Erickson, seconded by Meehlhause to approve the letter of support for the Highway 197 corridor project. Motion carried unanimously.

VisitBemidji Discussion

Discussion was held concerning the size of the VisitBemidji board and staffing structure. Felix stated that, in 2016, the City Council came to an agreement with the VisitBemidji Board to increase the size from nine members to fourteen; however, the actual agreement was

never brought forth to be signed by both parties. Felix stated that this is a housekeeping matter which can be cleared up before the next council meeting.

Albrecht solicited comments regarding the size and how it's been working from the two City representatives that sit on the VisitBemidji Board, Councilmember Erickson and City Manager, Nate Matthews. Erickson noted that the board is large and diverse and goals can sometimes conflict so a marketing committee was formed; however, directives from that committee often change. She also stated that staff feel they are being given direction outside of the board meetings as well as being pulled and pushed in many directions. Erickson stated with such a large board there can be issues and suggests that the board be reorganized and VisitBemidji staff become City employees, with full benefits for job security, and to have a better sense of what is happening with public dollars for which the council is responsible for.

Matthews commented that the board wishes to have a bigger discussion and be more involved in decisions. He says the director has struggled with the new make-up of the board. Matthews also sits on the hiring committee for the new director which consists of six members.

Several questions were raised from councilmembers regarding potential changes to VisitBemidji, specifically the affects it would have on the staff of VisitBemidji, the City and the current VisitBemidji board.

Felix advised that this is an agreement with an organization and the City does not have the latitude to change the board or who works for who. If the Council moves forward with terminating the agreement, 60 days notices would be required. He also stated there seems to be a lot of unanswered questions and suggests the council may want to create a task force to examine these issues before taking formal action.

Hiring Process of an Executive Director at the Sanford Center and Additional Discussion

Beard added this discussion to address a portion of the City's contract with VenuWorks, which states the City has the right to participate in the recruitment, interviewing and hiring of the executive director of the facility including the creation of a recruiting task force to work with VenuWorks in the hiring process. Beard would like to see a meeting with the executives to give input on what the City might need in a new director. There was consensus of the Council regarding the suggestion of Beard and directed Mathews to arrange a meeting with Steve Peters and Russ Ferguson.

Johnson supplied an article related to another VenuWorks managed event center and capping the City's contribution. He would like to see something similar implemented for the Sanford Center. Albrecht noted this was worthy of discussion; however, there have been items identified, specifically with the sale of the suites, that are outside of the contract. Felix explained that the problem is with the agreements between the suite holders, which should have been with the City through VenuWorks and not BSU. City, event center and BSU staff have been working together to identify issues that can be improved for all involved. Once all items have been resolved, further discussion should take place. Johnson feels this has nothing to do with capping our losses. Mathews explained that we are not currently accessing a prime source of revenue and would make this type of agreement difficult.

ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE Amending an Uncoded Section of Bemidji City Code Pertaining to Alley Vacation (Henderson's 3rd Addition to Bemidji) was given a first reading

ORDINANCE NO. 160, 3RD SERIES, AN ORDINANCE Amending an Uncoded Section of Bemidji City Code Pertaining to Street Vacation (Industrial Park) was given a final reading and upon roll call vote passed unanimously.

Motion by Beard, seconded by Thompson, approving publication of a summary of Ordinance No. 160 3rd Series. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 161, 3RD SERIES, AN ORDINANCE Vacating/Revoking Ordinance No. 157, 3rd Series, and Amending an Uncoded Section of Bemidji City Code Pertaining to Alley Vacation was given a final reading and upon roll call vote passed unanimously.

Motion by Thompson, seconded by Meehlhause, approving publication of a summary of Ordinance No. 161, 3rd Series. Motion carried unanimously.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

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| • Tuesday, May 7 | 6:00 p.m. | Joint LGU Meeting (City Hall) |
| • Monday, May 13 | 5:30 p.m. | Joint Meeting with County |
| • Monday, May 20 | 6:00 p.m. | Council Meeting |
| • Monday, May 27 | HOLIDAY | |
| • Tuesday, May 29 | 5:30 p.m. | Work Session (MnDOT-197 ROW) |
| • Monday, June 3 | 6:00 p.m. | Council Meeting (Chat-About: Beard) |

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

- Council members provided updates on current events and meetings.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Beard, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Bobbi Karpinski
Deputy City Clerk