

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA
Work Session – May 8, 2017

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 8, 2017, 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, Hellquist, Johnson, Larson, Meehlhause arrived at 5:59 p.m. Absent: Erickson

Staff Present: City Manager Nate Mathews, City Attorney Alan Felix, Parks & Recreation Director Marcia Larson, City Clerk Kay Murphy

Mayor Albrecht stated that the purpose of the work session was to discuss urban forestry.

Director Larson stated that the City received approval for a host site through the GreenCorps program focused on urban forestry.

Nicole Deziel, Mn GreenCorps Urban Forestry, stated that she has been developing recommendations for the Bemidji's Shade Tree Disease Control and Prevention ordinance as well as working to establish clearer tree policies for the city. The following is a list of some of the recommendations to the ordinance:

- Allow residents to plant trees on boulevards adjacent to them through an approval process by the Parks Department.
- Update the process for inspection and removal of privately owned trees infected with Dutch elm disease and other diseases.
- Define planting distance from street, utilities and other trees, etc.

Mayor Albrecht noted that the City's tree ordinance is not the same as the Tree Preservation recommendations under the Greater Bemidji Joint Planning ordinance.

City Attorney Felix noted that the proposed ordinance will give the City Council the ability to address other tree diseases.

Deziel stated that she is also conducting a tree inventory of the City's boulevard and park trees, which will be helpful in creating tree policy recommendations and management plans. The GIS Department developed a tree inventory system to record species, diameter, crown width and condition of each tree. This information will assist in determining any current and future problem areas that should be monitored more carefully.

Discussion followed regarding the tree species and transport of wood. Felix noted that the Public Works Director has reviewed the ordinance and has some recommendations as well.

Council consensus was to have the first reading of this ordinance at the Council's first meeting in June.

Travel Request

Council Johnson requested travel to attend CGMC Lobby Day at the Capital on May 11. **Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Hellquist, to approve travel to St. Paul for Johnson on May 11 to attend CGMC Lobby Day. Motion carried unanimously.**

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Hellquist, seconded by Johnson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Kay M. Murphy
City Clerk