

**CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**  
**BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA**  
**Special Meeting/Work Session – June 11, 2012**

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, June 11, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. in the Northern Town Hall of City Hall, Mayor Larson presiding.

Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Larson, Waldhausen, Johnson, Hellquist, Albrecht, Negard, Thompson

Northern Board members: Mike Kelly, Dan Bahr, Ron Gangeness, Clark Chambers

Staff Present: City Manager John Chattin, City Clerk Kay Murphy, Northern Town Clerk Mary Israelson

Northern Township Chair Kelly stated that the purpose of the special work session was to discuss potential early annexation of Birchmont Drive properties in Northern Township.

Algoma Park

Kelly stated that Northern Township has prepared a Warranty Deed to transfer Algoma Park to the City of Bemidji as agreed upon in the Orderly Annexation Agreement. He further stated that a condition in the Deed states that property conveyed to the City will be used exclusively for park, playground, recreation, trail, green space or open space purposes, and if such use ceases the park will revert to Northern Township.

**Motion by Waldhausen, seconded by Negard, to accept the Warranty Deed from Northern Township for Algoma Park as conditioned. Motion carried unanimously.**

Annexation

Kelly stated that Northern Township Board is interested in accelerating the annexation of property along Birchmont Drive and east of Bemidji Avenue in exchange for the City re-assessing the properties that are part of the Birchmont Project. Kelly stated that the new assessment role of the properties that are part of the appeal is complete and ready to be filed. Kelly stated the cost of legal fees and the City's inability to receive money to pay the project bonds are some of the reasons for the request. He stated that when the project started no funds were to be spent from Northern Township general revenues or the City. He stated that while the township and the city have been sharing the costs (50/50), Northern Township wants to protect its residents from future expenses.

Waldhausen asked if Bemidji Township is on board with the annexation. Chattin responded that they have told him directly in the past that any agreements should be made separately with Northern or Bemidji Townships and that they would not oppose any agreement.

Council discussed the following:

- Annual cost of the City's bonds for the project.
- Phase in for the proposed annexation. Kelly stated that the phase in will be according to the State phase in over 5 years. There would be no phase in of the City tax rate.

Discussion continued regarding the primary and general election and how that works with annexation as well as the timeline with the Municipal Boundary Adjustment.

Town Board Supervisor Clark stated that it is unfortunate that residents east of Bemidji Avenue that did not receive utilities are also part of the annexation.

**Motion by Thompson, seconded by Hellquist, to accelerate the annexation of property located east of Bemidji Avenue and along Birchmont Drive north to the Northwood's DNR landing located in Northern Township. Motion carried unanimously.**

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kay M. Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a thin blue rectangular border.

Kay M. Murphy  
City Clerk