

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – June 15, 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, June 15, 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, Erickson. Absent: Rivera, Thompson

Staff Present: City Manager Nate Mathews, Finance Director Ron Eischens, City Attorney Alan Felix, Assistant City Attorney Katie Nolting, City Engineer Craig Gray, Parks & Recreation Director Marcia Larson, City Clerk Michelle Miller

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

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

MINUTES

The following minutes were presented for approval:

Council Meeting: May 29, 2020

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Albrecht called for any items to be pulled from the consent agenda. Johnson asked for the Sanford Center Bill List to be pulled for discussion. The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval. **Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Johnson, to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:**

1. Claims Submitted by Finance Officer in the amount of \$1,035,781.84
2. Approve 2020 General Business License(s)
3. **RESOLUTION NO. 6299:** Approving Minnesota Gambling Premises Permit for lawful Gambling to Bemidji Wrestling Club located at Bemidji Armory – Minnesota National Guard

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

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

The following individuals submitted email comments to the City Clerk calling for the Neilson Reise Arena to be reopened for ice as soon as possible:

- Jimmy Schoonover, 1231 Water Edge Dr SE
- Christian Knutson, 402 Gorge Dr NE
- Tyler Truax
- Ben Brovold
- Jamie Mostad, 2979 Royalton Dr SW
- Brandon & Carrie Mattfield
- Seth Methcalf
- Pete Nicklason
- James Marcotte, 15200 Brune Rd NE
- Bruce Hasbargen, 3779 Crest Ct NE
- Kelly Johnson, 22670 Whitetail Dr
- Darren Matetich
- James Dewar
- Aricka Johnson

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Award of Quote for 2020 Sanitary Sewer Slip Lining Project

Gray stated this is a project done every other year as a part of the Sanitary Sewer Capital Improvement Plan with a budget of \$150,000. Slip lining is necessary for various sections of old clay tile sanitary sewer mains that run in between backyards and narrow alleyways of houses and businesses that not no recorded utility easements in place. Because of these conditions they

cannot be dug up and repaired or replaced and must be “slip lined” in placed. Two quotes were received as follows:

Visu-Sewer:	\$149,496.00
Veit Contracting:	\$155,854.00

The proposed work for 2020 includes approximately 2,560 lineal feet of 8” and approximately 1,120 lineal feet of 10” sanitary sewer pipe.

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Erickson awarding the quote for the 2020 Sanitary Sewer Slip Lining Project to Visu-Sewer in the amount of \$149,496.00. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Erickson, Albrecht, Johnson, Meehlhause. Absent: Rivera, Thompson.

Consider Resolution Declaring a Council Vacancy and Ordering Special Election (At Large Council Seat)

Felix stated that due to the resignation of Jim Thompson, At Large Councilmember, dated June 4, 2020, and pursuant to the terms of the Charter, a special election is required to fill the vacancy. The Council expressed great appreciation for his service.

RESOLUTION NO. 6300: Declaring a Council Vacancy and Ordering a Special Election, Setting the Special Election for November 3, 2020 and Setting the Filing Period for Interested Candidates beginning July 28 and ending August 11, was offered by Councilmember Meehlhause, who moved its adoption, and upon second by Councilmember Erickson was passed by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Meehlhause, Johnson, Erickson, Albrecht. Absent: Rivera, Thompson.

Discussion on Rifle Hunting in City Limits

Mathews stated that a newly annexed resident expressed an interest to allow rifle hunting on his property. Travis Yerbich owns 90 acres which is now located in the city limits and while in Northern Township was able to rifle hunting on his property. Johnson stated that he spoke with the Hibbing City Administrator and their city uses a conditional use permit for this type of use. The last phase of annexation contains large parcels which are rural in nature. Erickson stated that the Deer Management Committee has reviewed similar requests in the past but have not recommended this use due to the high level of risk. Erickson believes that the Deer Management Committee would not want to manage a rifle hunt. Additionally, a special archery deer hunt is currently not allowed in Ward 3 so the committee would need to review and survey that area before they can recommend hunting in that ward. Felix stated that there is a possibility that the DNR will need to provide input on rifle hunting in the city limits.

Consensus of the council was to meet during a work session together with the Deer Management Committee and zoning staff for further discussion.

Consider Allowing League Play for the Bemidji Area Softball Association – Softball Leagues

Mathews stated that the Bemidji Area Softball Association would like to begin their leagues. Pursuant to the Minnesota Department of Health, adult softball activities are considered high risk activities. Larson stated that the parks and recreation department is currently not taking reservations for city softball fields. Larson also stated that city staff will not be prepping the fields or providing any support with relation to organized practices and games. Felix stated that cities are treating the not recommended activities from the state as not permitted by the city. Additionally, he stated that the City needs to create a preparedness plan as well as each organization will need to submit a plan.

Kristin Monkman spoke for the Bemidji Area Softball Association and presented documents and the plan they would follow if allowed to play games. She stated that they believe they can follow the stay safe guidelines for outdoor gatherings as set forth by the State of Minnesota.

Consensus of council was to continue to follow the state guidelines to not allow adult league games and for the city to send a letter to the Governor to encourage allowing adult softball activities.

Consider Claims Submitted by VenuWorks for the Sanford Center in the Amount of \$25,361.70

Johnson questioned the need to pay a management fee to a company to manage a building that is not open for events and functions. Mathews stated that the city has a contract with VenuWorks to manage the building, which includes managing relationships with community partners, as well as managing events, conventions, weddings and other meetings that have been canceled and hope to be rescheduled. The managing staff are helping to manage all of the issues related to COVID-19 with regards to the building, staff and events.

Motion by Erickson, seconded by Meehlhause, Approving the Claims Submitted by VenuWorks for the Sanford Center in the Amount of \$25,361.70. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Albrecht, Erickson, Meehlhause. Nays: Johnson. Absent: Rivera, Thompson.

ORDINANCES

AN ORDINANCE Amending an Uncoded Section of Bemidji City Code Pertaining to Alley Vacations (Block 6, Finseth Addition to Nymore) (Block 14, Finseth’s 2nd Addition to Nymore) was given a first reading.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Monday, June 22 5:00 p.m. Public Affairs Committee
- Monday, July 6 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Johnson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle R. Miller
City Clerk