

# CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

## BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

### Regular Meeting – June 18, 2012

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 18, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, Mayor Larson presiding.

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

Staff Present: City Manager John Chattin, City Attorney Alan Felix, Public Works Director/City Engineer Craig Gray, Finance Director Ron Eischens, City Clerk Kay Murphy

#### **AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA**

Mayor Larson called for any amendments to the agenda. City Clerk requested the Council add claims submitted by VenuWorks for the Sanford Center in the amount of \$69,873.84 to the consent agenda. **Motion by Johnson, seconded by Thompson, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

#### **MINUTES**

Minutes of the June 4, 2012 regular meeting and June 11, 2012 work session were presented for approval. **Motion by Thompson, seconded by Negard, to approve the minutes as prepared. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

1. Claims submitted by the Finance Officer in the total amount of \$760,149.70
2. Claims submitted by Venuworks for the Sanford Center in the amount of \$63,649.93
3. Claims submitted by VenuWorks for the Sanford Center in the amount of \$69,873.84
4. Miscellaneous Business License Renewals for 2012
5. **RESOLUTION NO. 5769:** Approving an Application to G.W. Neilson Foundation Grant to Renovate and Rehabilitate the Bemidji Carnegie Library
6. **RESOLUTION NO. 5770:** Reporting on Performance Measures Adopted in 2011

**Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

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

No one appeared.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### Carnegie Library Project

Lew Crenshaw, Save the Carnegie Library Committee Chair, stated that at the Council's meeting on June 4, the Council asked the Committee to report back on addressing the safety concerns of the front of the Carnegie Library as well as the emergency exit. He reviewed three concepts which included:

1. "Barrier" concept which was modified after a consultation with MnDOT.
2. Close off the current west entrance and add another emergency exit in the southeast side of the building utilizing a window from the lower level. Finally, close the sidewalk in front of the building and re-route the sidewalk around the building.
3. "Drape the Stone" concept based on experience in other Minnesota locations (e.g., Split Rock Lighthouse) combined with a MnDOT "no wake zone" snowplowing program.

Crenshaw stated that it is the Committee's recommendation that the City not move the building with this project. However, this is still an option. He stated that it is estimated that an additional \$500,000 above the \$1.1 million would need to be raised through the capital fundraising campaign.

Waldhausen stated that he would not support closing the sidewalk along the street.

Negard asked if the Committee has explored sealants for the limestone. Crenshaw responded that what he has found is that sealants actually deteriorate the stone faster.

Ryan Siggerud, Associate of Michael J. Burns, commented that in looking at the Carnegie Library it is in good condition and it will be there a long time.

Albrecht stated that she met with Crenshaw, Andrew Mack and MnDOT and had a good discussion regarding the Carnegie. She stated that MnDOT indicated to them that they are not interested in impacting the building further and suggested that the building front be maintained.

Waldhausen commented there is no way to ensure that MnDOT will not impact the building in the future.

Johnson stated he would like to see the building moved as it would return the building to its historic roots by giving it a front yard and also eliminate any concerns that may arise, i.e., MnDOT's future plans for that street.

Waldhausen stated that he supports saving the Carnegie but only if the building is moved.

Negard stated that the Council voted a couple of times to tear the building down and he is in favor of saving it and safety has been his number one concern. He stated that moving the building back will look nicer aesthetically and in so doing the City will never have to worry about MnDOT impacting the building.

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Waldhausen (Waldhausen commented that he seconded the motion for discussion only), that the Council authorize the Committee to move ahead with fundraising to restore/renovate the Carnegie Library. Further, that the City support the relocation of the building by allocating the already designated \$100,000 toward the cost of moving plus utilizing funds from the Parks sales tax to cover the remaining costs of the move.

Hellquist stated that he was not interested in putting the cost of the saving the Carnegie on taxpayers and the whole project was predicated on moving the building back. Hellquist stated that when it gets tough collecting money, the Committee comes back requesting that the building not be moved. Hellquist stated that if the money doesn't get collected, the project will not get done.

Waldhausen stated that to utilize the park sales tax money could use up over 50% of the funds that were planned for improvements at the waterfront project and he was not willing to do that.

Albrecht commented that it was her understanding that some of the park sales tax could assist with the cost of landscaping around the Carnegie Library as well as moving the electrical boxes near the Carnegie. She suggested that the Committee could explore other creative way to find the additional funding to move the building.

At this point, Johnson withdrew his motion.

**Motion by Waldhausen, seconded by Hellquist, to authorizing the Save the Carnegie Library Committee to begin fundraising and reaffirming the Council's direction to have the building moved a minimum of 10 feet from Paul Bunyan Drive. Motion carried with the following vote: Ayes: Waldhausen, Hellquist, Larson, Negard. Nays: Albrecht, Johnson, Thompson.**

### **ORDINANCE**

Pursuant to published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input regarding Amending an Uncoded Section of Bemidji City Code Pertaining to the Vacation of a Paper Street (Cross Street). Mayor Larson opened the Public Hearing at 8:02 p.m., hearing no comments the public hearing was closed.

**AN ORDINANCE** Amending an Uncoded Section of Bemidji City Code Pertaining to the Vacation of a Paper Street (Cross Street) was given a second reading.

### **UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS**

- Monday, June 25      5:30 p.m.      Special Work Session – 2013 Budget
- Monday, July 2      6:30 p.m.      Special Work Session – 2011 Audit Presentation
- Monday, July 2      7:00 p.m.      Regular Council Meeting

### **COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT**

- Council members provided updates on current events and meetings.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, motion by Negard, seconded by Waldhausen, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:22 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