

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – June 3, 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, June 3, 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, Assistant City Attorney Katie Nolting, Finance Director Ron Eischens, Public Works Director/City Engineer Craig Gray, Parks & Recreation Director Marcia Larson, Community Development Director Steven Jones, City Clerk Michelle Miller

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

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

MINUTES

The following minutes were presented for approval:

Work Session: May 20, 2019
Council Meeting: May 20, 2019

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Beard requested that the Quote from Traut Well Drilling for Test Well be pulled for discussion. The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval. **Motion by Erickson, seconded by Beard, to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:**

1. Claims Submitted by Finance Officer in the amount of \$468,380.75
2. Claims Submitted by VenuWorks for the Sanford Center in the amount of \$30,704.17
3. General Business License Approvals for 2019
4. Approve Special Event Permit – North Country Skateshop – July 13, 2019
5. **RESOLUTION NO. 6227:** Adopting Performance Measures for 2018
6. **RESOLUTION NO. 6228:** Approving the Site and Alcohol for the 2019 Knights of Columbus Walleye Classic
7. **RESOLUTION NO. 6229:** Authorizing the City of Bemidji to Continue Participating in the Minnesota Bird City Program and Recognizing International Migratory Bird Day

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

No appearance.

REPORTS

Bird City Program – Peter Buessler, President of the Mississippi Headwater Audubon Society, provided an update on Bemidji's Bird City Designation. To qualify to be a Bird City a community needs to annually document its involvement in 7 of 18 best practices. Bemidji is active in 16 of the 18 best practices. Over the last year they have partnered with VisitBemidji to help bring tourism to the area related to birds. Birds, Bees & Butterflies has partnered with several organizations in planting native gardens in the community. Bemidji was able to report over 50 activities over the past year related to birds and other environmental issues in the community. The annual celebration scheduled for June 22 will feature the impact local resident John Mathisen had on bringing the Bald Eagle out of extinction.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Award of Bid for 4th St & America Ave Storm Sewer Project – City Project 19-09

Gray stated that the existing storm sewer system in the intersection of 4th Street NW and America Avenue has deteriorated and the intersection needs to be reconstructed, in addition to the replacement of the sanitary sewer and water main. The curb ramps will also be constructed to current ADA standards. The following bids were received:

Sparky’s Construction: \$173,692.50
 Reierson Construction: \$188,651.69

The low bid of \$173,692.50 will result in a total project cost of approximately \$208,500 after design engineering and construction inspection costs. Funding for the project will come from Storm Sewer Utility Maintenance Fund (\$100,000) and Construction Reserves Fund (\$108,500).

Motion by Erickson, seconded by Thompson, awarding the bid for the 4th Street & America Avenue Storm Sewer Project – City Project 19-09 to Sparky’s Construction, in the amount of \$173,692.50. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider Water Main Project with Deep Rock Townhome Association

Gray stated that the City has been working with the Deep Rock Townhome Association regarding freezing water issues over the last 10 years. The Association has made some attempts to prevent the freezing but it still continues. Gray stated that the exact cause of the freezing is unknown but says it is likely due to the water main not being installed deep enough. Gray believes it is appropriate for the City to discuss and participate in resolving this issue. The freezing is affecting seven serves in the northwest corner of the development. The Association has hired Freeberg and Grund to assess this issue and they recommend that 300 feet of water main be dug up and lowered to the appropriate depth as well as lowering and insulating water services lines. The estimated cost of the project is \$40,000-\$60,000. Gray recommends limiting the City’s share of the project cost to \$30,000.

Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Erickson, for the City to participate in 50% of the construction cost, not to exceed \$30,000 for lowering the section of the Deep Rock Townhomes water main and direct the City Attorney and City Engineer to prepare an agreement between the parties. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Committee Assignments

Albrecht stated that she would like to make the following changes to committee assignments:

- Beard to Visit Bemidji and Alternate #1 for Airport Authority
- Erickson to Airport Authority and remove Visit Bemidji

Beard and Erickson have agreed to these changes. Per City Code, the assignments will be reviewed again in January. **Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Beard to approve the council committee assignments as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

Consider Quote from Traut Well Drilling for Test Well – New City Well – City Project 19-08

Mathews stated that Barr Engineering continues to work on the investigation necessary in order for the City to construct a new well. The previously approved test drilling and environmental testing came back with presence of heavy metals. Barr is recommending that the City move the potential well site further to the west, which requires additional test boring and collecting soil and groundwater samples. These samples will be analyzed to determine the suitability of the site for a new well. The estimated cost for this work is \$38,020. If this site is not suitable, the City might have to look at a completely different location for a new well. The schedule of getting a new well on-line is now pushed to either late fall or next year. A work session/update with Barr Engineering is expected to be scheduled in August.

Motion by Erickson, seconded by Thompson, approving the quote from Traut Companies for \$38,020 for City Project 19-08. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE NO. 162, 3RD SERIES, AN ORDINANCE Amending an Uncoded Section of Bemidji City Code Pertaining to Alley Vacation (Henderson’s 3rd Addition to Bemidji) was given a final reading and passed by unanimous vote.

Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Thompson, approving publication of a summary of Ordinance No. 162, 3rd Series. Motion carried unanimously.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

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| • Tuesday, June 4 | 5:30 p.m. | Sp. Work Session (Sanford Center-Hiring of Executive Director) |
| • Monday, June 17 | 5:15 p.m. | BEDA Meeting (Closed-Property) |
| • Monday, June 17 | 6:00 p.m. | Council Meeting |
| • Monday, June 24 | 5:30 p.m. | Work Session (2020 FMP) |

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

- Council members provided updates on current events and meetings.
- Erickson stated that the Library Board might have funds to purchase security cameras or at the least mirrors could be installed to help monitor the problem areas.
- Erickson commented on the items that the county accepts for free at the transfer station and suggested having a partial project pride clean up.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Rivera, seconded by Erickson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle R. Miller
City Clerk