

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – June 4, 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 4, 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, Public Works Director/City Engineer Craig Gray, City Clerk Kay Murphy

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Mayor Larson called for any amendments to the agenda. The City Clerk requested the following item to be added to the Consent Agenda:

- Add Johnson to Travel Authorization - CGMC

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Thompson, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

MINUTES

Minutes of the May 21, 2012 minutes were presented for approval. **Motion by Negard, seconded by Johnson, to approve the minutes as prepared. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

CONSENT AGENDA

The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval. Councilor Negard requested that the following item be removed for discussion: Adopt Changes to the Personnel Policies. Item was moved to New Business. **Motion by Waldhausen, seconded by Johnson, to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:**

1. Claims Submitted by Finance Officer in the amount of \$758,236.87
2. Miscellaneous 2012 Business License Renewals
3. Travel Authorization – CGMC Summer Conference in Owatonna (July 25-27) – Larson, Johnson

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

No one appeared.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – Kaija Roy, Commission member, reported on the June 7 Youth Day event.

Librarian's Report - Paul Ericsson, Branch Manager, reviewed the upcoming events at the Library including the Book Festival scheduled for June 11-June 16.

OLD BUSINESS

Save the Carnegie Library Committee Update

Lew Crenshaw, Committee representative, provided an update on the progress made by the Save the Carnegie Library Committee. The preparation for a fundraising campaign to raise the required capital has begun and should be launched in a few weeks. The work is focused on obtaining major benefactors and grants, two sources of funding that are critical to their success. He stated that a "conditions assessment" of the building has been completed by the firm of Michael J. Burns Architects and from that assessment a scope of work document, project budget, project timeline and concept drawings have been prepared.

Crenshaw reviewed the project timeline which has a 16 month period for fundraising with construction beginning April 2014 and completion in October 2014. The project goal is to repair and protect the exterior of the building to correct deterioration created by the highway. Repairs will include remediation of asbestos and lead, replacing the electrical and HVAC systems, exterior repair of the roof and new windows, gutters and downspouts. The interior will see restoration of some of the original woodwork, new restrooms and an elevator to meet ADA compliance.

Crenshaw reviewed the budget stating that the requirement to move the building 10 feet is estimated to cost approximately \$466,000. This requirement brings the fundraising efforts from \$1.1 million to \$1.5 million. He stated that the Committee has been receiving feedback from potential benefactors that do not want to spend their money to move the building. Others reasons in addition to the high cost for not moving the building included the concerns with Native American artifacts in Library Park and the risk of delisting the building from the National Register of Historic Places.

Crenshaw provided a picture of the proposed barrier to be placed in front of the building to protect the limestone. In addition, the front door would remain only as an emergency exit.

Crenshaw stated that the as the Bemidji Carnegie Library moves into its second century, it is fitting that this building continue to open its door for the benefit of the public. If we abandon the Carnegie Library it will be lost forever. If we save it, it will regain its beloved place as a major community landmark for future generations to use and enjoy. Crenshaw stated that the Committee is requesting the Council's direction to proceed with the fundraising and removal of the requirement to move the building.

Council expressed concerns regarding the barrier in front of the Library and whether using the front door as an emergency exit was needed. Negard stated that he was not comfortable with the front door being used at all because of safety concerns created by the highway's close proximity to the building. Albrecht stated she was unaware of any person falling into traffic in the 20 years that the Art Center had been located in the building and felt that with a new entrance and utilizing the front door in an emergency situation only was a good plan.

Mayor Larson stated that he believed the barrier would not withstand one winter snowplowing season. Crenshaw will work with Michael Burns in this regard.

Chattin asked if the Committee had any proposals for occupancy and sustainability of the building as renovating a building to have it left vacant was not a solution.

Crenshaw stated that the Committee has developed a general vision for the building but felt it was too soon to find occupants for the building. Crenshaw stated that it was his understanding that the Bemidji Art Center will continue to occupy the building for another two years.

Motion by Thompson, seconded by Albrecht, to rescind the Council's requirement to move the building a minimum of 10 feet and to authorize the Committee to proceed with their fundraising campaign. After discussion regarding the barrier and the emergency exit, Thompson withdrew his motion.

Mayor Larson asked Crenshaw if he could answer the concerns regarding the barrier and the requirements for emergency exit and provide that information at the next regular Council meeting.

Linda Gross, 6656 Sandy Lake Road NE, stated that it is disgraceful that the City would even consider tearing down an historical building.

NEW BUSINESS

Personnel Policies

Negard stated he asked to have this item removed from the Consent Agenda and questioned the reimbursement rates used for meals. Chattin responded that meal reimbursement is based on "Conus" rates and is stated in the Personnel Policy.

Motion by Negard, seconded by Hellquist, to approve the changes to the City's Personnel Policies. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCES

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

ORDINANCE NO. 80, 3RD SERIES, AN ORDINANCE Uncoded Section of Bemidji City Code Pertaining to Drainage Easement Vacation (Bemidji Development Corporation) was given a final reading and passed by unanimous vote.

Motion by Waldhausen, seconded by Hellquist, approving publication of a summary of Ordinance No. 80, 3rd Series. Motion carried unanimously.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Monday, June 11 6:00 p.m. Work Session with Northern Township
- Monday, June 18 6:30 p.m. Special Work Session – 2013 Prelim. Budget
- Monday, June 18 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting
- Monday, June 25 5:30 p.m. Work Session – 2013 Budget

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

- Council members provided updates on current events and meetings.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Thompson, seconded by Hellquist, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay M. Murphy
City Clerk