

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Work Session – Monday, June 8, 2015

Pursuant to due call and notice, a work session of the City Council of the City of Bemidji, Beltrami County, Minnesota, was held on Monday, June 8, 2015, at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of City Hall, Mayor Albrecht presiding.

Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Albrecht, Meehlhause, Johnson, Olson, Erickson, Larson Absent: Hellquist

Staff Present: City Manager Nate Mathews, City Attorney Alan Felix, Public Works Director/City Engineer Gray, GBAJPB Planning Admin. Mayana Rice, Deputy City Clerk Teresa Hanson

Middle School Road C.U.P. Review and Discussion

City Manager Mathews indicated the new school project may be delayed until 2017, but that has not been confirmed with ISD #31. He added a meeting is scheduled with ISD #31 representatives on June 10 to further discuss the project and construction schedule.

Mathews identified four issues that may be presented for Council action in the future:

1. Left turn lane on Conifer Avenue NW
2. Two roundabouts were identified
3. Parking restrictions on 23rd Street NW from 7 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday – Friday
4. Development Agreement with ISD #31

Several aspects of the proposed project were discussed including the following:

- Conifer Avenue NW
 - Parking is currently permitted on both sides of the street, but Gray will review the issue and possibly suggest year-round calendar parking to provide adequate traffic flow and snow plowing access.
 - No left turn lane or by-pass lane will be constructed on 15th Street NW at the Conifer Avenue NW entrance. It was previously determined there is sufficient sight distance from the bridge to the intersection for eastbound traffic.
 - A parent/teacher entrance will be created on Conifer Avenue NW, but all exiting traffic will be directed to the north due to the obstructed view created by the guard rail on the 15th Street overpass bridge. No busses will access or exit the school on Conifer Avenue NW.
- Roundabouts
 - Two roundabouts were recommended by the traffic engineer and the City may be asked to share in construction costs.
 - Providing easements and public rights-of-way for construction of the roundabouts could possibly be the city's contribution, which may save land acquisition costs.
 - Land ownership and possible land acquisition
 - The land required for the proposed roundabout at the new school access consists of public rights-of-way and property currently owned by ISD #31.
 - The land required for the proposed roundabout at the intersection of Middle School Drive NW and 23rd Street NW consists of public rights-of-way and property currently owned by Beltrami County, ISD #31 and a private landowner. In order to construct the proposed roundabout, land would need to be acquired from the private landowner, which is currently part of a parking lot.
 - While construction costs were previously quoted at an estimated \$300,000, Gray indicated he estimates construction at \$200,000 for a simple, functional roundabout not including land acquisition costs. However, he noted the final plan, landscaping options (concrete vs. landscaped) and plans for future upgrades would increase that estimate. Gray shared a photograph of a roundabout in Maplewood, Minnesota, depicting the landscaping and green space.

- Gray indicated if the roundabouts are to be constructed in 2016, he will need to know as soon as possible so he can include them in next year's construction schedule.
- Parking on 23rd Street NW
 - Parking is currently permitted on both sides of the street, but the C.U.P. proposes no parking from 7 a.m. – 4 p.m. on school days.
 - Gray indicated calendar parking may also be an option, depending on the construction layout for the roundabout.
- County involvement
 - Since Beltrami County owns the baseball/softball/soccer complex property, Council members felt they should be involved in the development discussions. Mathews noted County Administrator Kay Mack, and the County Engineer were involved in the 15th Street NW traffic and intersection discussion and Mack is aware of the possible land acquisition needs for the roundabout. Mack has also been invited to attend the June 10 meeting with ISD #31.
 - Council members are interested in the County's future development plans for the complex north of the proposed school site and the property south of Target. This item will be added to the agenda for discussion at the annual Special Joint Meeting with the County in July.
- Bike parking – clarification was made that a safe area for bicycle parking is still a listed requirement in the resolution, but it does not have to be enclosed.
- Sidewalks and trail access – sidewalks are a JPB requirement, rather than a city requirement, and trail access may be available using public rights-of-way. Both should be discussed and included in the development agreement.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Olson, to adjourn the meeting at 5:57 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Teresa Hanson
Deputy City Clerk