

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting/Work Session – July 11, 2011

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, July 11, 2011, at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of City Hall, Mayor Larson presiding.

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

Staff Present: City Manager John Chattin, Finance Director Ron Eischens, City Attorney Alan Felix, City Engineer/Public Works Director Craig Gray, GIS Coordinator Brett Case, Deputy City Clerk Michelle Miller

Other Present: Sandy Nelson, Miller McDonald, Inc., Tim Flaherty, Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities, Beryl Wernberg, Beltrami County, Jane Mueller, Beltrami County, Senator Rod Skoe, Senator John Carlson, Representative Dave Hancock.

Mayor Larson stated that the purpose of the meeting was to review the audit report prepared by Miller McDonald, Inc.

AUDIT REVIEW

Sandy Nelson, Miller McDonald, Inc., reviewed the 2010 Audit with the Council. The Auditor noted the following items from the Audit:

- The following seven areas were tested for the Minnesota Legal Compliance by the Auditor: contracting and bidding, deposits and investments, conflicts of interest, public indebtedness, claims and disbursements, tax increment financing, and miscellaneous provisions. The City complied with the material terms and conditions.
- No instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.
- The City complied in all material respects with the requirements that are applicable to each of its major federal programs.
- The City meets recommended amount of reserves for cities.
- Net income/loss before transfers of the Public Utilities:
 - Refuse profit of \$60,687 – doing better since the services have been changed.
 - Water profit of \$493,931.
 - Sewer loss of \$116,389 – Rates adjustments may have to be made.
 - Stormwater remains the same at a profit of \$777,885.
- With the completion of the Sanford Center it has been moved to Enterprise Funds. This is the first year's depreciation for fixed assets. The building is depreciated over 50 years.
- 2010 State/Federal Grants – approximately \$11 million was recognized as income. The numbers are skewed due to the Sanford Center.
- The Liquor Store Enterprise Fund net income went up from \$500,000 to \$600,000 which helps the City's General Fund. Chattin noted that Bemidji is likely in the top 10 in the State for net profit percentage.

STONER AVENUE NAME CHANGE

Gray stated that the street signs located at the intersections of Stoner Avenue are constantly being stolen. Over a one year period it costs the City approximately \$2,000 to replace these signs. Gray suggested that Stoner Avenue be changed to another name. Beryl Wernberg, Beltrami County Emergency Management, indicated that the missing street signs could pose a hazard for emergency responders. During the past year there have been a total of 13 calls to Stoner Avenue addresses with six of those calls being emergencies. Franklin Avenue was suggested as a possible new name.

Motion by Albrecht, seconded by Thompson, to direct staff to begin the ordinance process to change the street name of Stoner Avenue. Motion carried.

Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities – Legislative Update

Tim Flaherty reviewed the impacts and status of the state government shutdown to greater Minnesota Cities. Legislators present also commented on the current dilemma.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Thompson, seconded by Negard, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michelle R. Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Michelle R. Miller
Deputy City Clerk