

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA
Regular Meeting – July 21, 2014

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, July 21, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, Mayor Albrecht presiding.

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

Staff Present: City Attorney Alan Felix, Public Works Director/City Engineer Craig Gray, Finance Director Ron Eischens, Parks & Recreation Director Marcia Larson, City Clerk Kay Murphy

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

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

MINUTES

The following minutes were presented for approval:

City/County Meeting	July 1, 2014
Council Meeting	July 7, 2014
Special BEDA	July 7, 2014
Work Session	July 14, 2014

Erickson suggested the following corrections to the July 7, 2014 council minutes:

Motion by Hellquist, seconded by Olson, to award the bid for the Chief Bemidji Platform to Diversified Builders in the amount of \$62,250, \$5,000 of which the Chief Bemidji Committee has agreed to pay for.

“Erickson stated that she felt to have a street behind Walgreen’s would not improve the traffic flow onto Irvine from Walgreen’s.”

Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Johnson, to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval. Meehlhause requested to be added to the travel authorization for CGMC Summer Conference. **Motion by Johnson, seconded by Olson, to approve the Consent Agenda items as amended:**

1. Claims Submitted by Finance Officer in the amount of \$2,660,916.14
2. Claims Submitted by Venuworks for the Sanford Center in the amount of \$63,745.84
3. General Business Licenses Renewals for 2014
4. 1 Day Temporary Consumption & Display Permit – Chamber on August 12, 2014
5. **RESOLUTION NO. 5900:** Repair or Remove Structure(s) Located at 702 19th Street NW
6. **RESOLUTION NO. 5901:** Repair or Remove Structure(s) Located at 718 19th Street NW
7. Purchase of New Air Compressor in the amount of \$13,423 from Ziegler, Inc. – Street Department
8. Change Order #1 – Chief Bemidji Statue Platform - Add Alternate #3 (decorative columns) in the amount of \$3,600 (paid by Chief Bemidji Committee)
9. Travel Authorization – CGMC Summer Conference in Rochester – August 20-22 – Hellquist, Meehlhause

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

No one appeared.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Sustainability Committee – Erica Bailey-Johnson reviewed past successes of the Sustainability Committee. Sara Denison highlighted the 3rd Annual Sustainable Places Tour on Saturday, July 26 which has been coordinated by the Bemidji Sustainability Committee, with members from our university and surrounding community.

PRESENTATIONS

Update from Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities – Bradley Peterson, CGMC, reviewed the 2014 Legislative session. He reported that the 2014 legislative session was short, intense and yielded modest gains for Greater Minnesota. The CGMC will continue to advocate for Bemidji and other Greater Minnesota cities interests in 2015. Discussion continued on transportation.

TXT4Life, A Minnesota Suicide Prevention Program – Ayla Koob, Stellher Human Services, Inc., provided an overview of a new suicide prevention program that is being introduced to certain regions in Minnesota. TXT4Life works by texting “Life” to 612-22 and then the texter is connected to counselors. The counselors can listen, provide resources, help with coping skills, or intervene in a suicidal situation if deemed necessary. Ms. Koob stated there are two trainings offered to those who are interested which are Question Persuade, Refer (QPR) trainings and Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST).

ACT on Alzheimer’s Action Team – Carol Priest, Northwoods Caregivers, shared information about the ACT on Alzheimer’s Action Team. It is a four phase process for bringing people together to make Bemidji a dementia-friendly community. A dementia-friendly community is informed, safe, and respectful of people with Alzheimer’s disease, and offers services and support for these people and their caregivers. There will be a meeting on Wednesday, August 6 to begin the community assessment. Councilor Thompson will attend on behalf of the City Council.

OLD BUSINESS**Chief Bemidji Statue Model**

Sandy Kaul, Public Arts Commission, reviewed the final clay model of Chief Bemidji statue. The Chief Bemidji Statue Committee and the Public Arts Commission have recommended the Council approve the final clay model by artist Gareth Curtiss.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Thompson, to approve the Chief Bemidji Statue model and approved the second of three payments to Gareth Curtiss in the amount of \$23,000 per his contract. Motion carried unanimously.

Mural – WWTF Digester Building

Mike Forbes, WWTF Co-Superintendent, stated that on July 7 the WWTF Artist Selection Committee interviewed artists and reviewed their proposals. The Selection Committee unanimously selected Wesley May and his design for the mural commission for the new digester building. On July 9, the Public Arts Commission met and agreed with the Selection Committee’s decision and is recommending the Council approve the Wesley May Mural for the WWTF public art project. Discussion continued regarding the murals longevity and types of materials to be used. Forbes stated that Mr. May plans to complete the mural by mid-September.

Gray stated that funding for this project is in the 2014 CIP utilizing the Sanitary Sewer fund.

Thompson stated it would be nice to have a viewing platform with explanation. Forbes stated that they have been discussing placing trail signage along the bike trail.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Thompson, approving the Wesley May Mural for the Wastewater Treatment Facility public art project in the amount of \$22,000. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS**Downtown Parking Lot Permit Increase**

Denise Koenigsberg, Downtown Business Alliance (DBA) representative, provided an overview of recent administrative activities, current issues and plans for future development of the downtown parking lots. She stated that the DBA is requesting an increase to the downtown parking lot fees as follows:

Parking <u>Lot</u>	Current <u>Rates</u>	Proposed <u>2014-2015</u>	Proposed <u>2015-2016</u>	Proposed <u>2016-2017</u>
Lot 2	\$85	\$90	\$95	\$100
Lot 3	\$125	\$133	\$142	\$150
Lot 4	\$100	\$108	\$117	\$125
Lot 5	\$85	\$90	\$95	\$100
Lot 6	\$75	\$82	\$89	\$96
Lot 7	\$125	\$133	\$142	\$150

Koenigsberg noted that there has been no increase to the parking lot rates since 2005. In addition, Lot 8 located at the Waterfront will be closed after the construction. The question becomes does the City want to replace that lot. Koenigsberg noted that there was a Parking Committee which had City Council representation. Mayor Albrecht indicated that the members of the City’s Public Works Committee would be the Council’s representatives and asked her to communicate upcoming meetings with the City Clerk.

Motion by Thompson, seconded by Olson, approving the downtown parking lot fee increase over the next three years as proposed by the Downtown Business Alliance. Motion carried unanimously.

Wastewater Treatment Facility Roof Replacement (City Project 14-09)

Gray stated that the 2014 CIP includes \$150,000 for the replacement of the WWTF administration roof based on an inspection completed in 2008. The following two bids were received on July 15:

Thelen Heating & Roofing, Inc.	\$125,700
Herzog Roofing, Inc.	\$127,820

Gray stated that the total project cost is approximately \$145,000, providing there are no unforeseen circumstances discovered. The project will be funded with sanitary sewer utility funds.

Motion by Erickson, seconded by Meehlhause, to award the bid for the Wastewater Treatment Facility Roofing Roof Replacement (City Project #14-09) to Thelen Heating & Roofing, Inc. in the amount of \$125,700. Motion carried unanimously.

Request from Upstream TV

Mike Bredon, Executive Director for Upstream, stated that Upstream TV operates the Bemidji’s public access channel under an agreement with the City and has been expanding programming of local and accessible television. Bredon stated that their proposal is to provide access and insight into government operations. They propose to combine and expand public and government broadcasts onto a newly established Government Access TV Channel.

Albrecht stated that she is supportive of Upstream but the challenge is funding, particular since the budget is set for 2014. Eischens concurred with the City Manager’s direction and recommended that the City Council add it to the August 11, 2015 budget discussion.

Meehlhause commented that providing government access is an important communication tool and he would like further discussion.

Erickson stated she would like to see Upstream’s monthly financials before making any decision about Upstream’s request. Bredon stated that it was provided but would be happy to provide it again.

Johnson stated that part of the problem with Upstream getting support is access to the present location. Bredon commented that co-locating is essential.

Mayor Albrecht directed the Finance Director to include Upstream’s request as a budget item for possible consideration by the Council at the 2015 Budget discussion in August.

Waterfront/Library Parks Bids

Parks & Recreation Director Larson reviewed the two bids received for Paul Bunyan/Library Park improvements stating that the low bid exceeded the engineer’s estimate by \$255,609.57. Larson recommended that the Council reject all the bids at this time and rebid the project in 2015.

Meehlhause asked if there would be an opportunity to find more funding. Larson responded that she will be looking for additional grants.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Thompson, to reject all bids for Paul Bunyan/Library Park project and rebid in 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCES

Pursuant to published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input regarding an Ordinance Vacating a Portion of 23rd Street. Mayor Albrecht opened the Public Hearing at 9:04 p.m., hearing no comments the public hearing was closed.

AN ORDINANCE Vacating a Portion of 23rd Street was given a second reading.

Pursuant to published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input regarding n Ordinance Amending an Uncoded Section of the Bemidji City Code (Authorizing the Sale of Real Property) (Becker). Mayor Albrecht opened the Public Hearing at 9:06 p.m., hearing no comments the public hearing was closed.

AN ORDINANCE Amending an Uncoded Section of the Bemidji City Code (Authorizing the Sale of Real Property) (Becker) was given a second reading.

Pursuant to published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input regarding an Ordinance Amending an Uncoded Section of the Bemidji City Code (Authorizing the Sale of Real Property) (Reise). Mayor Albrecht opened the Public Hearing at 9:07 p.m., hearing no comments the public hearing was closed.

AN ORDINANCE amending an Uncoded Section of the Bemidji City Code (Authorizing the Sale of Real Property) (Reise) was given a second reading.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Wednesday, July 23 5:30 p.m. Joint LGU Meeting @ City Park Building
- Monday, August 4 7:00 p.m. Regular Council Meeting
- Monday, August 11 5:30 p.m. 2015 Budget / Arena Discussion

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

- Council members provided updates on current events and meetings.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Olson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay M. Murphy
City Clerk