

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA
Work Session – July 27, 2020

Pursuant to due call and notice, a special meeting of the City Council of the City of Bemidji, Beltrami County, Minnesota, was held on Monday, July 27, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, Mayor Albrecht presiding via video and telephone conference.

Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Albrecht, Meehlhause, Johnson, Rivera, Erickson.

Staff Present: City Manager Nate Mathews, City Attorney Alan Felix, City Clerk Michelle Miller

Deer Committee Present: Bob Brogren, Jason Sanderson, Justin Pitt, Jacob Haus, Dave Rave, Dean Robertson.

Mayor Albrecht stated the purpose of the meeting was to discuss hunting within the newly annexed portions previously in Northern Township.

Hunting

Mathews stated that at the June 15 council meeting, it was brought to the council's attention a newly annexed property owner is not able to hunt on his property since it is now located within the Bemidji city limits. Previously, he was able to hunt on his property under the rules and regulations of the Bemidji Game Refuge. Currently, hunting is not allowed within the City of Bemidji except for those areas that are approved for an annual archery deer hunt. There are no portions of Ward 3 currently approved to conduct a deer hunt.

Council heard from the following individuals wishing to hunt on their properties:

- Travis Yerbich/Victor Yerbich
- Tony Bellino

It was initially thought that the property owner was seeking to rifle hunt on his property, but after discussion, it was determined that rifle hunting had not been conducted and the property owners are seeking to be able to hunt under the rules of the Bemidji Game Refuge. Erickson stated that the hunt is managed to maintain safety in order to conduct a hunt within the city limits.

Felix suggested implementing a short term policy change to waive the firearms code for the newly annexed properties for 2020 and to begin the process of amending the ordinance to create an exception for property owners to hunt on their properties under the rules of the Bemidji Game Refuge. Council had no objections to these suggestions. Felix stated he could bring a proposal policy change to the council at a regular council meeting in August. It was also suggested that property owners can petition for detachment from the City of Bemidji under Minnesota Law.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Rivera, seconded by Meehlhause, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle R. Miller
City Clerk