

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – July 6, 2020

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 6, 2020 at 6:00 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, Finance Director Ron Eischens, City Attorney Alan Felix, City Engineer Craig Gray, Parks & Recreation Director Marcia Larson, Planning Administrator Casey Mai, City Clerk Michelle Miller

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:

Council Meeting: June 1, 2020
Special Meeting: June 8, 2020
Council Meeting: June 15, 2020

Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Rivera, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

Albrecht called for any items to be pulled from the consent agenda. The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval. **Motion by Rivera, seconded by Meehlhause, to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:**

1. Claims Submitted by Finance Officer in the amount of \$1,899,873.28
2. Claims Submitted by VenuWorks for the Sanford Center in the amount of \$13,244.24
3. Approve 2020 General Business License(s)
4. Approve On-Sale Wine License (Lucky Dogs)
5. Approve Appointment to Housing & Redevelopment Commission (Heather Charwood)
6. Approve 2020 Budget Modification #1
7. **RESOLUTION NO. 6301:** Appointing Election Judges for the August 11, 2020 Primary Election
8. **RESOLUTION NO. 6302:** Authorizing Ballot Question (Referendum) on Proposed Charter Amendment
9. **RESOLUTION NO. 6303:** Authorizing Minnesota Gambling Premises Permit for lawful Gambling to Bemidji Wrestling Club – Fozzie’s Smokin Bar BQ

Motion carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Rivera, Erickson, Meehlhause, Albrecht, Johnson.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

The following individuals appeared before council:

- Adam Steele, 189 Gemmel Avenue, addressed council regarding his organization of an informal “Music by the Mississippi” which is held every Wednesday from 6:00-8:00 p.m. and his application to have a food truck and gain access to electricity in Waterfront Park. Mathews stated that at this time the city is maintaining consistency to not process applications for events in public spaces.
- CT Marhula, 4524 Birchmont Drive NE, addressed council regarding a possible of conflict issue regarding the Ward 2 council seat.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Modification of City of Bemidji Economic District No. 1 and Consider TIF District Application Request for Mountain View Meadows Housing Development Project

Mathews stated planning and administrative staff have been working with Mitch Rautio and Puddle Duck Properties regarding a housing development named Mountain View Meadows. A preliminary development agreement was entered into with Puddle Duck Properties to complete a feasibility analysis for the development proposal. Rebecca Kurtz, Ehlers, stated that this project

qualifies for Tax Increment Financing (TIF) assistance. She stated they are seeking council support for this project in order to move forward with the next steps to establish a TIF District for the Mountain View Meadows Housing Development Project. Mathews stated that this project would be completed in three phases with the last phase to be completed by 2028. Rautio stated that construction of the project could begin as early as this fall.

Consensus of the council was to move forward with Ehlers and Puddle Duck Properties on the process of establishing a TIF district for the Mountain View Meadows Housing Development Project.

Consider Resolution Granting and Reconveying Tax Forfeited Property to State of Minnesota

Felix stated that in 1967 the City acquired several tax forfeited parcels from the State for use as park sites in the City. As a part of the tax forfeit laws, the city only received authorization to use the property exclusively for the use as a park site. Therefore, one the City no longer has a use for it as a park, the property would have to be reconveyed back to the State. The property contains no park improvements and it is not considered an important asset worth maintaining as part of the park system. The Parks & Recreation Commission met and has recommended that the City Council consider conveying it back to the State. Additionally, Parks and Public Works Staff recommend that the property would be better served for residential development and use purposes and supports the reconveyance.

RESOLUTION NO. 6304: Granting and Reconveying Tax Forfeited Property to State of Minnesota, was offered by Councilmember Erickson, who moved its adoption, and upon second by Councilmember Meehlhause was passed by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Erickson, Albrecht, Johnson, Rivera, Meehlhause.

ORDINANCES

AN ORDINANCE Changing the Name of Boring Court NW to Cooperative Court NW was given a first reading.

Pursuant to published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input regarding an Ordinance Amending an Uncoded Section of Bemidji City Code Pertaining to Alley Vacations (Block 6, Finseth Addition to Nymore) (Block 14, Finseth’s 2nd Addition to Nymore). Mayor Albrecht opened the Public Hearing at 7:10 p.m. The following comments were heard:

- Deb Doyle, 404 Miles Avenue, stated she is an adjacent homeowner and inquired about getting more details of the vacation.
- Madeline Turnquist, 419 Kay Avenue, stated she was a petitioner of the vacation request and supports vacating the alley

With no further comments, Mayor Albrecht closed the public hearing was closed at 7:16 p.m.

AN ORDINANCE Amending an Uncoded Section of Bemidji City Code Pertaining to Alley Vacations (Block 6, Finseth Addition to Nymore) (Block 14, Finseth’s 2nd Addition to Nymore) was given a second reading.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Monday, July 13 5:30 p.m. Work Session (2021 FMP)
- Monday, July 20 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting
- Monday, July 27 5:30 p.m. Work Session (Deer Committee/Rifle Discussion)

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Johnson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle R. Miller
City Clerk