

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – August 1, 2011

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, August 1, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, Mayor Larson presiding.

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

Staff Present: City Manager John Chattin, City Attorney Alan Felix, Public Works Director/City Engineer Craig Gray, Finance Director Ron Eischens, City Clerk Kay Murphy

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

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

MINUTES

Minutes of the July 18, 2011 regular meeting and July 25, 2011 work session were presented for approval. **Motion by Waldhausen, seconded by Albrecht, to approve the minutes as prepared. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

CONSENT AGENDA

The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval. **Motion by Johnson, seconded by Albrecht, to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:**

1. Claims submitted by the Finance Officer in the total amount of \$796,275.54
2. Claims submitted by the Sanford Center in the total amount of \$50,648.00
3. Miscellaneous Business License Renewals for 2011
4. Use of Public Sidewalk for Crazy Days Event – DDA
5. Awarded Digital Infrastructure Radio Upgrading to Roger's Two Way Radio in the amount of \$240,027.44 – Fire Department
6. Awarded Bid for Lift Station Refurbishment to Electric Pump in the amount of \$58,378.13
7. **RESOLUTION NO. 5702:** Approving the Temporary Off-Premises Liquor Permit for Bemidji Eagles Aerie #351 Annual Picnic
8. Authorized a Grant Agreement with Shane's Inspiration (Inclusive Playground)

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

No one appeared.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – No one appeared.

Librarian's Report - Paul Ericsson, Branch Manager, reported on the Library Book Sale and other events at the public library.

OLD BUSINESS

Midway Drive Bridge

Larson stated that this item was tabled by the Council on July 5.

Gray stated that on June 17, 2011 the City opened bids for the rehabilitation and repair of the Midway Drive Bridge. The low bidder, Robert Schroeder Construction, has extended their bid until August 8. Gray reviewed the available funding for the project, noting an unfunded amount of \$115,000. He stated that MnDOT has indicated that they will provide up to an additional \$50,000 towards the project if the funds become available. In addition, the City has submitted an application for a Legacy Grant which could result in additional funding. Gray noted that with the DNR getting the funding for the Paul Bunyan Trail Bridge it frees up \$100,000 of Parks & Trails Sales Tax money, that the Council could consider moving to this project.

Albrecht stated that while Midway Drive is a key link within the City's trail system and it is important to preserve some of our history in Bemidji, she was hesitant to proceed at this time.

Gray stated the next opportunity to apply for enhancement dollars is 2015 or 2016. If the Council chooses to rebid the project, Gray stated that the bids would likely go up. To date, \$50,000 to \$60,000 has been spent on the historical work, design and specifications.

Johnson suggested that trails users, i.e., Snowmobile Club, could help with this project.

Motion by Thompson to approve a Resolution Awarding the Bid for City Project 08-10, Old Midway Drive Rehabilitation and Repair failed due to lack of a second.

Motion by Waldhausen, seconded by Johnson, to reject all bids and allocate the \$100,000 of the Parks & Trails Sales Tax money to Waterfront park improvements and uncommit the liquor store funds. Motion carried with the following vote: Ayes: Negard, Waldhausen, Albrecht, Johnson, Larson, Hellquist. Nays: Thompson.

NEW BUSINESS

Minnesota Avenue Project

Gray stated that due to the state shutdown we had to separate out the Minnesota Avenue and 8th Street projects from our local streets. The local street project was awarded by the Council last month. The City has received approval from the State and the bid opening was held on July 27 with five bids received. The low bid was from Christiansen Industrial Developers of Bemidji in the amount of \$1,657,121.40. The Engineer's estimate was \$1,800,000. Construction will start by the end of August and some of the work will carry over into 2012. He stated that a large portion of the project will be paid for with federal funds (\$750,000) and municipal state aid construction funds (\$300,000). There will be approximately \$273,000 of special assessments and various city utility funds will also be utilized.

RESOLUTION NO. 5703: Awarding Bid for Minnesota Avenue Reconstruction (City Project #11-01) was offered by Councilmember Albrecht, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Johnson was passed by unanimous vote.

Amending Small Cities Development Grant

Tim Flathers, HRDC, stated that the City was awarded Small Cities Development Program grant funds to finance infrastructure improvements along Conifer Avenue and commercial rehabilitation/storefront renovation activities downtown. The downtown commercial storefront renovation activity includes \$350,000 and was intended to provide financing to support rehabilitation of 14 buildings in the target area. After well over a year, there have been only three applications for financing. DEED would like to see the funds committed and put to good use within the grant period and has stated that extending the grant period is not an option. Flathers recommended that the Council submit a budget revision to the Dept. of Employment and Economic Development transferring \$50,000 from the storefront renovation activity to the sewer and water construction along Conifer Avenue.

RESOLUTION NO. 5704: Authorizing Amendment to DEED Grant Agreement No. CDAP-09-0084-O-FY10 to Reallocate Budget Formula Respecting Grant Proceeds Allocated to Commercial Revitalization (Downtown Storefront Renovation/ Commercial Revitalization and Rental Housing Rehabilitation Grant Program)(Conifer Avenue Utility Extension Project) up to \$50,000 was offered by Councilmember Albrecht, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Negard was passed by unanimous vote.

ORDINANCES

Rental Ordinance Amendment

Felix stated that there has been good progress made by the Rental Ad Hoc Committee. However, there are significant issues that the Committee has yet to review and Felix recommended that the Council consider continuing the Public Hearing and Second Reading.

Motion by Negard, seconded by Hellquist, to continue the public hearing and second reading of the Ordinance Amending Chapter 10, Article II of the Bemidji City Code Relating to Rental Housing Registration Code until September 19, 2011. Motion carried unanimously.

Fee Schedule

Motion by Hellquist, seconded by Waldhausen, to continue the public hearing and second reading of the Ordinance Amending the 2011 Fee Schedule until September 19, 2011. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 68, 3RD SERIES, AN ORDINANCE Amending Chapter 12 of the Bemidji City Code Article XXIV entitled Pawnbrokers, Secondhand and Precious Metal Dealers was given a final reading and passed by unanimous vote.

Motion by Waldhausen, seconded by Hellquist, approving publication of a summary of Ordinance No. 68, 3rd Series. Motion carried unanimously.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Monday, August 8 5:30 p.m. Work Session – Strengths-Based Visioning with D. Murphy
- Monday, August 15 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting
- Monday, August 22 5:30 p.m. Work Session – 2012 Budget

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

- Council members and staff provided updates on current events and meetings.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Johnson, seconded by Thompson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Kay M. Murphy
City Clerk