

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA
Special Work Session – Monday, August 13, 2018

Pursuant to due call and notice, a special work session of the City Council of the City of Bemidji, Beltrami County, Minnesota, was held on Monday, August 13, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, Mayor Pro Tem Erickson presiding.

Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Meehlhause, Hellquist, Johnson, Lehmann, Erickson, Larson. Absent: Albrecht

Staff Present: City Manager Nate Mathews, City Attorney Al Felix, Finance Director Ron Eischens, Public Works Director/Engineer, Craig Gray, Police Chief Mike Mastin, Police Captain David Lazella, City Clerk Michelle Miller

Mayor Pro Tem Erickson stated that the purpose of the special work session was to discuss the Prosecution Services Agreement and a possible request for a donation for the Veteran's home. Motion by Lehmann, seconded by Hellquist to amend the agenda. Motion carried.

Prosecution Services Agreement

Mathews stated that the amount the City paid for the prosecution services agreement was increased by \$30,000 for the 2018 contract year. That contract is set to expire December 31, 2018. Staff met with county staff in May regarding the 2019 terms. The county indicated they were going to be seeking an increase of an additional \$105,000 for the 2019 agreement. From that meeting, staff began researching the costs if the City took back prosecution authority of petty misdemeanor cases, misdemeanor cases and select gross misdemeanor cases. The county has always had and will continue to have jurisdiction over felony cases. Both the assistant city attorney and legal assistant will be located at the law enforcement center and Mastin stated that there is space available for both positions.

With the additional \$105,000 the city could potentially save \$124,000 by resuming prosecuting of criminal files.

Motion by Lehmann, seconded by Hellquist to terminate the Prosecution Services Agreement with the county and direct staff to hire an Assistant City Attorney and Legal Assistant. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Donation to Veteran's Home

Erickson stated that the presentation made to the council at the August 20, 2018 meeting was a precursor to a request for a donation from the city for the Veteran's home. Mathews stated that he received a request from the county to participate with the project. Possible city participation includes: 1) cash, 2) levy, 3) waive fees or 4) not participate.

If the city donated proportionate (per capita) to what townships donated the amount would be approximately \$65,745. Mathews provided a rough estimate of what the building and city fees would be for a 40 million dollar building. Concerns of the council include: 1) does our donation count toward the match; 2) can the city levy for this purpose.

Based on the meeting conversation, consensus was to direct staff to provide possible recommendations to council for consideration at a future council meeting.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Lehmann, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle R. Miller
City Clerk