

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – August 17, 2015

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 17, 2015 at 6:00 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, Larson

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

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

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

MINUTES

The following minutes were presented for approval:

Council Meeting	August 3, 2015
Special Meeting	August 3, 2015
Work Session	August 10, 2015

Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Hellquist, 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 Olson, to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:**

1. Claims submitted by the Finance Officer in the total amount of \$989,750.95
2. Claims submitted by Venuworks for the Sanford Center in the total amount of \$29,209.49
3. General Business Licenses for 2015
4. 1 Day Temporary Consumption and Display Permit – Headwaters Science Center – 11/13/15
5. Declared Old Outdoor Siren Equipment Surplus and Authorize Disposal
6. Nominated Joint Planning Commission Member – Laurie Kramka
7. Changes to the City's Personnel Policy

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

- Eva Fisher, Bemidji Jaycees, provided an update on the 2015 Water Carnival. She stated that they received positive feedback on the site and that the carnival rides did very well. However, they suffered a 60% decrease in the entertainment tent which will impact their ability to give funds back to the community this year. The Jaycees will be taking a serious look at events for next year as well as the free amenities. The \$14,000 that they typically spend on fireworks has increased due to the need for a pontoon and storage. The only feasible location for the water carnival is the Sanford Center parking lot with the changes to the waterfront. She concluded by thanking the City Council, staff and several community supporters.

Hellquist noted that there were many positive comments on Facebook and liked the “family” atmosphere. Fisher stated that the Jaycees need to figure out the layout but overall the location, lighting and parking were an improvement at the Sanford Center parking lot.

Mayor Albrecht noted that the downtown businesses have indicated that they like the water carnival downtown and suggested that the Jaycees could do some of the events at the waterfront and the amusement rides at the Sanford Center parking lot.

CGMC Update

Elizabeth Wefel, Lobbyist with the Coalition of Greater Mn Cities, provided an overview of the outcomes of the 2015 Legislative session. In summary, they are:

- No funding increase for LGA due to Legislature's failure to pass a tax bill

- \$1.8M for a new employer-driven job training program
- \$5.3M for workforce housing
- \$10.8M for broadband infrastructure grant program
- \$12.5M for small-city streets
- \$4.3M for the Greater Minnesota BDPI program
- Passed law requiring state to perform a cost impact analysis of all new and proposed water quality regulations

NEW BUSINESS

Rezone of former Rail Corridor

City Attorney Felix stated that in order to move the Center City Housing Project forward the Council should consider making an application to rezone the former Rail Corridor from B-2 (Business District) to Urban Renaissance District (UR). He noted that the Center City Project is in the process of applying for financing, i.e., tax credits and related funding sources through the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA) and the viability of such project as a permitted use or at least as a Condition Use, is imperative to the success of the financing approval(s). He further recommended that the entire corridor, owned by the City, be included in the rezoning request.

Motion by Hellquist, seconded by Olson, authorizing staff to prepare and submit a rezoning application for the former Soo Line Rail Corridor from B-2 to Urban Renaissance to the Joint Planning Board. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE

Pursuant to published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input regarding an Ordinance Amending Chapter 4 of the Bemidji City Code Entitled “Alcoholic Beverages” by Adding the Provisions Relating to Delivery of Liquor. Mayor Albrecht opened the Public Hearing at 6:42 p.m., hearing no comments the public hearing was closed.

Felix noted that he will have some minor changes to the ordinance for the Council to consider prior to the third reading.

AN ORDINANCE Amending Chapter 4 of the Bemidji City Code Entitled “Alcoholic Beverages” by Adding the Provisions Relating to Delivery of Liquor was given a second reading.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

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| • August 24 & 31 | | No meetings scheduled |
| • Tuesday, Sept. 8 | 6:00 p.m. | Council Meeting |
| • Monday, Sept. 14 | 5:30 p.m. | Work Session – CIP/Utility Cashflow |

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORTS

- Council members provided updates on current events and meetings.
- Councilor Johnson stated that the Airport Authority has been reviewing applicants and he believes close to making a recommendation to the City and County for appointment.
- Felix provided an update on a meeting with school district representatives regarding the developer’s agreement on the proposed upper elementary school.
- Felix noted that the Council met prior to this meeting as a special closed meeting to discuss matters with the City’s Attorney regarding Bemidji Township litigation.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Hellquist, seconded by Meehlhause, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay M. Murphy
City Clerk