

# CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

## BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

### Regular Meeting – August 17, 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, August 17, 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, Assistant City Attorney Katie Nolting, City Engineer Craig Gray, Assistant City Engineer Sam Anderson, 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 voice vote.**

#### **MINUTES**

The following minutes were presented for approval:

Work Session: July 27, 2020  
Council Meeting: August 3, 2020

**Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Johnson, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Johnson, Albrecht, Erickson, Meehlhause, Rivera.**

#### **OATH OF OFFICE/RESEATING OF COUNCIL**

City Clerk Miller administered the Oath of Office to elected official Josh Peterson (Ward 2). Councilor Peterson took his seat at the Council table and counted as present.

#### **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 Johnson, seconded by Peterson, to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:**

1. Claims Submitted by Finance Officer in the amount of \$794,414.49
2. Claims Submitted by VenuWorks for the Sanford Center in the amount of \$12,305.82
3. Approve 2020 Business License(s)

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

#### **CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA**

C.T. Marhula, 4524 Birchmont Drive NE, expressed opposition to the seating of Josh Peterson to Ward 2 as an incompatible office and conflict of interest regarding his current employment with VisitBemidji.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **Consider Resolution Encouraging Minnesota Lawmakers to Pass the Bonding Bill in the September 2020 Legislative Session**

Through email correspondence from the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities elected officials are encouraged to pass resolution urging Minnesota Lawmakers to pass a bonding bill in the September 2020 Legislative Session to help with infrastructure needs. Staff presented a draft of a resolution stating that the City of Bemidji has a vested interest in seeing a bonding bill passed to help pay for the new water treatment plant needed to ensure the citizens of Bemidji have safe drinking water.

**RESOLUTION NO. 6305: Encouraging Minnesota Lawmakers to Pass a Bonding Bill in the September 2020 Legislative Special Session was offered by Councilmember Meehlhause, who moved its adoption, an upon due second by Councilmember Johnson, was passed by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Peterson, Johnson, Albrecht, Meehlhause, Rivera, Erickson.**

##### **Consider Resolution Allowing the Newly Annexed Portion of the City to Continue to Follow the Hunting Regulations of the Bemidji Game Refuge for the 2020 Hunting Season**

Mathews stated that in response to the work session of July 27 held jointly with the Deer Management Committee and MN DNR staff, the proposed resolution is presented based on that discussion and consensus of the council to allow newly annexed residents of Northern Township to hunt and trap their properties pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Bemidji Game Refuge.

**RESOLUTION NO. 6306: To Suspend Enforcement of the City Firearms, Bows and Hunting Ordinance During the 2020 Minnesota Hunting Season to the Extent Necessary to Permit Residents of the Newly Annexed Phase Three (3) Area (from Northern Township) to Continue the Ability to Hunt and Trap Wild Game on their Property in Conformity with the State’s Special Hunting Regulations for the Bemidji Game Refuge was offered by Councilmember Johnson, who moved its adoption, an upon due second by Councilmember Peterson, was passed by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Rivera, Peterson, Erickson, Meehlhause, Albrecht, Johnson.**

Consider Award of Quote – 22<sup>nd</sup> Street NW Sanitary Sewer Extension Project – City Project 20-09  
 Sam Anderson stated that a sanitary sewer main extension is proposed along the alley up to 22<sup>nd</sup> Street NW which then allow an older main to be abandoned due to development on those properties. The new main will be able to serve the proposed development and also eliminate a maintenance problem for the city. Two quotes were received for this project:

Sparky’s Construction, Inc.:	\$31,490.00
Reierson Construction, Inc.:	\$38,886.49
Engineer’s Estimate:	\$35,000.00

The low quote of \$31,490.00 will result in a total project cost of approximately \$36,000.00 after design engineering and construction inspection costs are included. Funding for the project will be paid out of the Sanitary Sewer Utility Fund.

**Motion by Erickson, seconded by Meehlhause awarding the quote for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Street NW Sanitary Sewer Extension Project – City Project 20-09 in the amount of \$31,490.00 to Sparky’s Construction, Inc. Motion carried with the following roll call vote: Erickson, Albrecht, Johnson, Rivera, Meehlhause, Peterson.**

Consider Award of Quote – Arch Lane Sanitary Sewer Replacement Project – City Project 20-08  
 Sam Anderson stated that during annual maintenance activities, a sag was found in about 160 feet of existing 8” PVC sanitary sewer main. This can cause water and solids to settle in the main which can cause backup into private homes. This area also experiences localized storm water flooding and installation of a culvert can also be done at this time. Two quotes were received for this project:

Reierson Construction, Inc.:	\$53,580.80
Sparky’s Construction, Inc.:	\$76,744.80
Engineer’s Estimate:	\$45,000.00

The low quote of \$53,580.80 will result in a total project cost of approximately \$59,000.00 after design engineering and construction inspection costs are included. Funding for the project will be paid out of the Sanitary Sewer Utility Fund in the amount of \$25,000.00 and Storm Water Utility Fund in the amount of \$34,000.00. Anderson stated that the difference between the estimate and the quote is the cost of dewatering for this project due to the proximity to Lake Irving, low lying land and rainfall.

**Motion by Erickson, seconded by Rivera awarding the quote for the Arch Lane Sewer Replacement Project – City Project 20-08 in the amount of \$53,580.80 to Reierson Construction, Inc. Motion carried with the following roll call vote: Meehlhause, Johnson, Rivera, Erickson, Peterson, Albrecht.**

**ORDINANCES**

**ORDINANCE NO. 170, 3<sup>RD</sup> SERIES**, AN ORDINANCE Amending the City of Bemidji Council-Manager Charter Amending Chapter 4 (Nominations and Elections) was given a final reading and passed by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Albrecht, Meehlhause, Peterson, Johnson, Rivera, Erickson.

**Motion by Meehlhause seconded by Johnson approving publication of a summary of Ordinance No. 170, 3<sup>rd</sup> Series. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Johnson, Albrecht, Erickson, Peterson, Meehlhause, Rivera.**

**UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS**

- Monday, August 24 5:30 p.m. Work Session (Budget)
- Monday, August 31 5:30 p.m. Work Session (Rental Code Amendment)

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, motion by Peterson, seconded by Rivera, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
 Michelle R. Miller  
 City Clerk