

# CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

## BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

### Regular Meeting – August 19, 2013

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 19, 2013 at 7:00 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, 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 Albrecht called for any amendments to the agenda. The following items were requested for addition:

- Resolution to Accept a Donation from Target (Consent)
- Request for reduction of interest on a Senior Citizen Deferral (New Business)

**Motion by Johnson, seconded by Erickson, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

#### **MINUTES**

The following minutes were presented for approval:

Joint Sp Meeting	July 17, 2013
Regular Council	August 5, 2013
Special BEDA	August 5, 2013
Work Session	August 12, 2013

**Motion by Erickson, seconded by Meehlhause, to approve the minutes as prepared and/or revised. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval. Councilor Hellquist requested the travel authorization item be removed to new business for discussion. **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 \$373,227.05
2. Claims submitted by Venuworks for the Sanford Center in the total amount of \$63,157,89
3. 1-4 Day Temporary On-Sale Liquor License – BSU Foundation – August 6, 2013
4. Transfer of a Liquor License to Tbart Enterprises, Inc. dba Hot Toddy's (119 3rd Street NW) (former Classic Hard Times)
5. Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Bemidji and the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 49 AFL-CIO
6. **RESOLUTION NO. 5847:** Accepting a Donation from Target Corporation in the amount of \$1,000 for use by the Police Department (Transmitter/Camera)

**Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

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

Tom Kuesel, 518 Beltrami Avenue NW, requested that the City Council consider repaving the alley located between Bemidji and Beltrami and 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Streets. He stated that the pavement is falling apart and chunks of pavement have been thrown at and breaking windows of neighboring businesses. He provided an "informal" petition signed by the property owners abutting said alley which states: "request that the City of Bemidji apportion funds out of the city budget to repave the alley. The road surface of the alley is in very poor condition, making passage difficult for those using it on a daily basis, whether on foot or in a vehicle".

Gray stated that if the Council wanted this alley paved he would like direction as there may be excess funds in the 2013 budget that he could utilize. Gray further stated that he could do the alley in September or October and coordinate it with an alley located in Nymore that is being repaired due to stormwater problems.

Councilor Erickson expressed concerns about not assessing property owners for some of the cost for the alley. She believed it may create a higher demand by residents.

**Motion by Thompson, seconded by Meehlhause, to repair the alley located between 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Streets and Beltrami and Bemidji Avenues utilizing street budget funds. In the future property owners abutting alleys pay 50% by assessment. Motion failed with the following vote: Ayes: Thompson, Meehlhause. Nays: Hellquist, Johnson, Erickson, Albrecht, Olson.**

Councilor Erickson asked what other funds are available for alley maintenance? Eischens responded that the Council can use reserves; however, he does not recommend it.

Mr. Kuesel stated that part of the issue with the alley is the stormwater runoff. Furthermore, he stated there is a liability issue now that we (the City) have been “put on notice” regarding the alley’s condition.

The Council directed staff to provide more information on a process for maintenance of alleys.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – Hannah Sorenson, BYA representative, reported on the June 7 youth rally stating that 500-600 students attended the event. Ms. Sorenson thanked the Council, City staff and the Citizen Patrol for assisting with the event. She stated the commission has five (5) new members and held their annual retreat at Diamond Point Park. The present commission will be at the September 3 meeting for introductions.

#### Save the Carnegie Committee Update

Lew Crenshaw, Chair, reported that as of June 29, 2013 the Committee has raised just over \$640,000 of the \$1.6 million needed for the project. Fundraising and grant writing continues toward that effort. He stated that the committee is receiving broad support from the community and that they are confident they will be successful. He reported that volunteers have put in more than 2,050 hours. Goods and services, i.e., web design, t-shirts, etc., totaling \$11,000 have been donated for fundraising activities. In May of 2013, our Carnegie project was named as a “Site Worth Saving” by the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota, which will give the project state-wide publicity. Mr. Crenshaw stated that in 2015, in coordination with the parks project and the Art Center moving into their new facility, the building will be moved and renovated.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Energy Savings Program**

Eischens stated that at their April 22, 2013 work session Council directed staff to enter into a joint powers agreement with the Dept. of Commerce to participate in the State of Minnesota Guaranteed Energy Savings Program (GESP). City staff worked with the Dept. of Commerce to issue the site-specific request for proposals for energy savings performance contracting services. Seven (7) proposals were received and scored by staff. Based on the average scores, Honeywell earned the top score and staff recommended awarding the contract to Honeywell.

Eischens stated that the cost to implement projects recommended by Honeywell would be paid back by energy savings. He said those projects could cost as much as \$5 million. He stated that once Honeywell completes the audit, they will guarantee the energy savings that they projected. If the City does not actually realize those benefits, Honeywell is on the hook to pay the City the difference.

Chattin stated that some of the energy projects have already been planned for in the long-range capital improvement plan but could be done sooner because of the audit process.

Mayor Albrecht stated that it was time for the City to move forward on some energy efficiencies in its facilities.

**Motion by Olson, seconded by Meehlhause, awarding the Energy Savings Performance Contracting Services to Honeywell in the amount of \$56,000 using reserve funds. Furthermore, authorize the Mayor and City Manager to execute a GESP Work Order to perform the investment grade audit contractual services. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### **Sr. Citizen Deferral**

City Clerk Murphy stated that she had received a request from the property owner at 114 Rako Street asking the City Council to consider reducing the amount owed on his special

assessment. In 2001, the property owner requested a senior citizen deferral on an assessment totaling \$6,088.25; however, the interest has continued to accrue and now is over \$9,972.

City Attorney Felix stated he did not have time to review this request and advised the Council to take no action until he can do so.

Mr. Gay, 114 Rako Street, stated that the assessment will take 25 percent of the selling price of his home.

**Motion by Hellquist, seconded by Thompson, to table Mr. Gay's request until the Council's meeting on September 3, 2013. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### **Travel Authorization**

Councilor Hellquist stated he requested further discussion about travel authorizations noting that the Council's budget for travel is excessive. He further stated that Councilors that travel should report back on their travel, i.e., at the Council meeting or by sharing materials. He questioned the purpose of some of the travel requests.

Councilor Erickson stated she believed that the Council should lead by example and stay within budget.

Mayor Albrecht stated that in her role as mayor she feels it is important to network. She further stated that she takes off time from her job without pay. The travel request this evening would only be for mileage as she will be staying at her daughter's and receiving a small stipend from the Minnesota Historical Society.

**Motion by Johnson, seconded by Hellquist, authorizing travel for Mayor Albrecht to attend the Minnesota's 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Statewide Historic Preservation Conference in Lanesboro, MN on September 12. Motion carried unanimously.**

Council directed the Finance Director to adjust their travel budget for 2013 to cover additional travel this year.

#### **UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS**

- Tuesday, August 20      5:30 p.m.      Joint Meeting with Beltrami County Commissioners
- Tuesday, Sept. 3      7:00 p.m.      Council Meeting
- Monday, Sept. 9      5:30 p.m.      Work Session – Greater Bemidji Update & Discussion Boundary of Rail Corridor & Creation of a Task Force

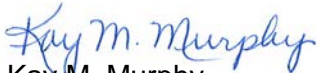
#### **COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT**

- Council members provided updates on current events and meetings.

#### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business, motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Hellquist, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay M. Murphy  
City Clerk