

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA
Work Session – August 22, 2016

Pursuant to due call and notice, a work session of the City Council of the City of Bemidji, Beltrami County, Minnesota, was held on Monday, August 22, 2016, at 5:30 p.m. in the Chambers of City Hall, Mayor Albrecht presiding.

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

Staff Present: City Manager Nate Mathews, City Clerk Kay Murphy

Others Present: Visit Bemidji Board: Mitch Rautio, Susan Goudge, Scott Faust, Kristi Booth, Lori Paris, Kristi Anderson, Kayla Winkler, Jessica Wang Bjerke

Mayor Albrecht stated that the purpose of the work session was to review the proposed changes to the Visit Bemidji board structure and other related items.

City Manager Mathews stated that after several meetings, the task force recommended the following:

1. Visit Bemidji would be willing to move back to the Tourist Information Center. The current leases for both entities require a 60-day notice.
2. Visit Bemidji would be willing to hire an additional staff member to work with their current staff to accomplish Visit Bemidji goals.
3. Visit Bemidji will promote community dialog on "food and beverage tax".
4. Directors of the Visit Bemidji, Chamber of Commerce, Greater Bemidji and the Sanford Center are communicating regarding collaborative marketing plan.
5. Visit Bemidji Board makeup to include 14 members as follows:
 - ✓ Bemidji State University
 - ✓ City (paid staff)
 - ✓ City (elected official)
 - ✓ Sanford Center
 - ✓ 3 - Innkeepers
 - ✓ Bemidji Downtown Alliance
 - ✓ Food & Beverage
 - ✓ 2 - Regional Attractions
 - ✓ Chamber of Commerce
 - ✓ Greater Bemidji
 - ✓ Airport Authority

Councilor Johnson suggested a different makeup of the board which included two city council reps. Discussion continued about the reasons for the makeup of the board. Lori Paris stated that in developing the proposed board the task force looked at other comparable cities, i.e., Duluth and arrived at the recommended 14 members.


Councilor Hellquist commented that he believed the idea was to reduce the size of the board not to expand it.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Meehlhause, approving the 14-member Visit Bemidji board as proposed as well as the other items. Motion carried with the following vote: Ayes: Meehlhause, Johnson, Olson, Erickson, Larson, Albrecht. Nays: Hellquist.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Hellquist, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Kay M. Murphy
City Clerk