

# CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

## BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

### Work Session – Monday, August 26, 2019

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 19, 2019, 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, Beard, Johnson, Rivera, Erickson, Thompson. (Thompson left at 6:05 p.m.)

Staff Present: City Manager Nate Mathews, Police Chief Mike Mastin, City Attorney Alan Felix, Community Development Director Steven Jones, City Clerk Michelle Miller

Mayor Albrecht stated the purpose of the work session was to receive an update regarding the Police Department Strategic Plan and Council Committee Discussion.

#### **Police Department Strategic Plan**

Mastin reported on the Bemidji Police Department Strategic Plan updated 2017-2020. The department developed this plan under the guidance of the President's Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing and focuses on six pillars:

- Building Trust and Legitimacy
- Policy and Oversight
- Technology and Social Media
- Community Policing and Crime Reduction
- Training and Education
- Officer Wellness and Safety

Mastin also reported on the Bemidji Police Department Strategic Plan Goals including the outcome indicators as well as progress and accomplishments for each of the following:

- Build strong relationships with all members of the community to increase transparency, understanding and trust.
- Establish well-trained and professional police officers who focus on protecting the dignity and human rights of all people.
- Focus on crime reduction efforts and improve quality of life issues by utilizing problem oriented policing strategies.
- Enhance emergency response capabilities to all hazards occurring in the City of Bemidji.

Additionally, Mastin reported on the increased calls for service and the continued staffing hiring and retention challenges. Council discussed various questions and concerns with Chief Mastin.

#### **Council Committee Discussion**

Mathews stated that staff have discussed the possibility of creating a Community Development Committee in addition to utilizing our current Public Affairs and Public Works Committees. The Community Development Committee could include the Joint Planning, GIS, building and rental departments as well as interested community members that have ideas or initiatives seeking city partnership. After discussion, consensus of the council was to discuss this in January when council appointments are made.

#### **Adjourn**

There being no further business, motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Rivera, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle R. Miller  
City Clerk