

# CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

## BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

### Regular Meeting – August 3, 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 3, 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 Manager Nate Mathews, City Attorney Alan Felix, Public Works Director/City Engineer Craig Gray, City Clerk Kay Murphy

#### **AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA**

Mayor Albrecht called for any amendments to the agenda. The following item was requested to be added under New Business: Sanford Center – Scupper Repair Agreement. **Motion by Johnson, seconded by Hellquist, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

#### **MINUTES**

The following minutes were presented for approval:

Council Meeting	July 20, 2015
Special Joint Meeting	July 20, 2015
Work Session	July 27, 2015

**Motion by Hellquist, seconded by Meehlhause, to approve the minutes as prepared. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval. Councilor Erickson requested that the travel authorization requested by the Mayor be removed for further discussion. **Motion by Hellquist, seconded by Olson, to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:**

1. Claims submitted by the Finance Officer in the total amount of \$778,363.11
2. Claims submitted by Venuworks for the Sanford Center in the total amount of \$57,009.80
3. Business License for 2015
4. 1-4 Day Temporary On-Sale Liquor License – BSU at American Indian Resource Center on October 3, 2015
5. **RESOLUTION NO. 5959:** Approving the BSU Homecoming Street Dance – October 3, 2015
6. **RESOLUTION NO. 5960:** Requesting Conveyance of Tax-Forfeited Lands
7. **RESOLUTION NO. 5961:** Entering into a Grant Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety

**Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

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

- Ricardo Canty, 122 26<sup>th</sup> Street NW, requested a pedestrian crosswalk at 26<sup>th</sup> & Bemidji Avenue as the traffic is flowing pretty fast and that are. Public Works Director Gray responded that this stretch of Bemidji Avenue belongs to Beltrami County and he could bring it to their attention.

#### **Greater Bemidji Report**

Dave Hengel, Executive Director of Greater Bemidji, thanked the City Council for helping to make the Mayflower building project successful. He stated that the building is now fully occupied and has become a public use building for entrepreneurs. Hengel noted there are opportunities for businesses such as Launchpad meetup for entrepreneurs as well as tools for companies including educational program, mentoring and information on financial resources. He then gave a brief presentation which he called “The Five Shoes Waiting to Drop on Greater Bemidji’s Future”. Five shoes are trends that are already underway but that cannot quite be seen yet. These trends could overwhelm us if we don’t spot them now and aggressively plan our course for the future. He reviewed future changes in the labor force provided by the state demographer and how it might impact the City. He noted that a poll of our residents show that

people want the growth and the regional center amenities but they don't want to lose the essence of Bemidji in the process.

Councilor Johnson suggested that Hengel's presentation could be a good basis for a Council visioning session to plan for the next five years.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Sanford Center – Scupper Repair**

City Attorney Felix stated that as a result of the closed session earlier the City Council has reached a resolution with Custom Drywall to reimburse the repair of the overflow scuppers at the Sanford Center. The Council should in open session formally accept the resolution.

**Motion by Hellquist, seconded by Johnson, to accept the \$23,000 settlement offer from Custom Drywall to reimburse the City for repair of the overflow scuppers at the Sanford Center. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### **Travel Request**

Councilor Erickson stated that she wanted to discuss the travel authorization for the Mayor to attend the Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative meeting in Dubuque, Iowa. She noted that the Council's \$7,500 budget for travel is over its limit by the end of June \$7,395 and there was travel in July which puts the Council over the budget. She stated that she is trying to see the value to the taxpayer for the Mayor to attend this meeting. How much is the cost of the room and meals and asked for clarification.

Mayor Albrecht responded that she has visited with the Finance Director and was aware that the Council's travel budget is maxed out. However, the Finance Director informed the Mayor that there are other line items that can be adjusted to cover additional travel. She stated that perhaps there is a need to increase the travel budget. There is no charge for the meeting and she only asking for lodging (\$244.16) and a couple of meals. She stated that it is important that Bemidji participate in its role as First City on the Mississippi River. There will be information that will be beneficial to the city, i.e., recreation, tourism and economic development. She is asking for travel authorization as she will be attending as a representative of the City of Bemidji. She is using her own time and appreciated the Council's support.

Johnson stated that it is important for the Council to attend meetings especially the League and Coalition to ensure Bemidji has a voice at the table.

Meehlhause stated that he believed that the travel line item should be adjusted as it is important for Council as well as staff to attend training.

**Motion by Johnson, seconded by Olson, to approve the travel request for lodging and meals only for Mayor Albrecht to attend the Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative Annual Meeting in Dubuque, Iowa. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **ORDINANCES**

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 first reading.

An Ordinance Vacating/Revoking Ordinance No. 115, 3<sup>rd</sup> Series, and Amending an Uncoded Section of the Bemidji City Code Pertaining to Street Vacation (Hillside Avenue NW) failed with the following vote: Ayes: Albrecht. Nays: Hellquist, Olson, Johnson, Erickson, Larson, Meehlhause.

### **UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS**

- Monday, August 10      5:30 p.m.      Work Session – 2016 Financial Management Plan
- Monday, August 17      6:00 p.m.      Council Meeting

### **COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT**

- Council members provided updates on current events and meetings.
- City Manager Mathews noted that the City closed on the purchase of land by Candlewood Inn & Suites.
- Felix advised the Council that there was a response from the school district regarding the development agreement for the Upper Elementary School. He stated there may be Council considerations to be made at some point.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, motion by Hellquist, seconded by Olson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay M. Murphy  
City Clerk