

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – August 3, 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 3, 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: Finance Director Ron Eischens, City Attorney Alan Felix, Assistant City Attorney Katie Nolting, City Engineer Craig Gray, Police Chief Mike Mastin, 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 13, 2020
Council Meeting: July 20, 2020

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Meehlhause, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

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 Meehlhause, seconded by Erickson, to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:**

1. Claims Submitted by Finance Officer in the amount of \$899,457.12
2. Claims Submitted by VenuWorks for the Sanford Center in the amount of \$66,073.34
3. Declare Two (2) 2014 Ford Police Interceptor Sedans Surplus and Authorize Disposal

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

No appearance.

REPORTS

CGMC Update

Elizabeth Wefel, senior attorney with Flaherty and Hood, stated that the strategy and goals for 2020 were shattered due to COVID-19. Before the pandemic the focus was on getting a good bonding bill, advance inflation/population growth proposal for LGA, build on child care progress and advance strategy on PFAS. The goals now are still getting a large bonding bill, CARES Act support for local governments, new child care challenges, small business grants legislation and working proactively to protect LGA. CGMC has also been helping cities navigate through the pandemic, by providing resources, hosting webinars, surveyed city leaders to gauge their top concerns, increased production of CGMC in Brief newsletter and hosted a remote meeting with Governor Walz. CGMC will continue to work on the above priorities in 2021. Wefel addressed questions and concerns with council.

OLD BUSINESS

Finalize Police Advisory Listening Session

Council discussed the questions it would like to put to the public to garner input and direction on how it should proceed with a possible police advisory committee and/or equity committee. Upon discussion, council agreed on the following questions and directed staff to publicize the questions as soon as possible:

1. Is there a need for a Police Advisory Committee in the City of Bemidji?

*If yes to Question 1, Please answer the following questions:

2. Who should be a part of the Police Advisory Committee?

3. What would you like to be the role and responsibilities of the Police Advisory Committee?
- 3A. What should the role be of the Bemidji Police Department and City Council in this Advisory Committee?
4. Do you feel there is a need for creating an Equity Committee?
- 4A. If yes, then do you feel this Equity Committee should be separate or incorporated into the Police Advisory Committee?
5. How would a Police Advisory Committee and/or an Equity Committee help make the City of Bemidji a better place to live?

ORDINANCES

Pursuant to published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input regarding an Ordinance Amending the City of Bemidji Council-Manager Charter Amending Chapter 4 (Nominations and Elections). Mayor Albrecht opened the Public Hearing at 7:14 p.m. and hearing no comments closed the public hearing at 7:15 p.m.

AN ORDINANCE Amending the City of Bemidji Council-Manager Charter Amending Chapter 4 (Nominations and Elections) was given a second reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 169, 3RD SERIES, AN ORDINANCE Changing the Name of Boring Court NW to Cooperative Court NW was given a final reading and passed by unanimous vote.

Motion by Erickson seconded by Meehlhause approving publication of a summary of Ordinance No. 169, 3rd Series. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Monday, August 10 5:30 p.m. Work Session/Listening Session
- Tuesday, August 11 **PRIMARY ELECTION DAY**
- August 13 or 14?? **CANVASSING BOARD**
- Monday, August 17 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting
- Monday, August 24 5:30 p.m. Work Session (Budget)

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Johnson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle R. Miller
City Clerk