

# CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

## BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

### Regular Meeting – September 2, 2014

Pursuant to due call and notice, a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Bemidji, Beltrami County, Minnesota, was held on Tuesday, September, 2014 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, Parks & Recreation Director Marcia Larson, City Clerk Kay Murphy

#### **AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA**

Mayor Albrecht called for any amendments to the agenda. Mayor Albrecht requested the addition of a Notice of Retirement from the City Manager under New Business. **Motion by Hellquist, seconded by Meehlhause, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

#### **MINUTES**

The following minutes were presented for approval:

Council Meeting	August 18, 2014
Work Session	August 11, 2014
Sp. Work Session	August 25, 2014

Thompson noted a typo in the work session minutes of August 11, 2014. Gray noted that the sealcrack is every "other" year.

**Motion by Thompson, seconded by Johnson, to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval. **Motion by Olson, seconded by Meehlhause, to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:**

1. Claims Submitted by Finance Officer in the amount of **\$806,348.58**
2. Claims Submitted by VenuWorks for the Sanford Center in the amount of **\$64,899.04**
3. 1 Day Temporary Consumption & Display Permit – Headwaters Science Center - 9/17/14
4. Purchase of a 2015 Dodge Ram truck from Nelson Ford in the amount of \$26,488 - Police
5. Purchase of a John Deere Front End Loader from Nortrax Equipment in the amount of \$166,151 - Street

**Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

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

No one appeared.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – Hanna Sorenson, BYA President, reported that the Commission recently had a retreat for new and returning Commission members. They have several new projects planned for the 2014-2015 school year as well as the June 7 event. Introductions were made of the 2014-2015 Commission members.

Librarian's Report - Paul Ericsson, Branch Manager, briefly reviewed implemented solutions to behavior problems recently experienced at the library. Ericsson reported on September library events.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Wee Gwaus Drive & Irvingside Lane

Mayor Albrecht stated that the decision on re-installing stop signs at the intersection of Wee Gwaus Drive and Irvingside Lane was tabled at the Council's August 18, 2014 meeting to allow Councilmembers time to visit the area.

Erickson stated that she drove the roads to familiarize herself with the area. She noted that there are many areas that have similar vision problems. However, she cannot support the addition of signs at this intersection.

Chattin stated that he has had discussions with Chief Mastin to utilize the portable speed sign as well as increasing patrols in the area. He noted that the police cannot be there all the time as the city has limited staff.

Gray stated that stop signs should not be used for speed control. He stated that ultimately the City Council can decide to install signs. He noted that there has not been an overabundance of accidents in the area. Discussion continued with a number of ideas for signing the road and utilizing the Sheriff's office to stop speeders.

Meehlhause stated that he respects the City Engineer's opinion and the state guidelines. He suggested that enforcement be increased.

Johnson asked if the City would be subject to a law suit if we put up a stop sign. Felix responded that these are recommended guidelines and the City may not necessarily be liable. Felix further stated that staff recommends that the Council follow the City Engineer's recommendation as well as stepping up enforcement.

**Motion by Olson, seconded by Thompson, directing staff to create a 3-way stop at the intersection of Wee Gwaus Drive and Irvingside Lane. Motion failed with the following vote: Ayes: Hellquist, Thompson, Olson. Nays: Meehlhause, Johnson, Erickson, Albrecht.**

Kathy Johnson, 1424 Wee Gwaus Drive SW, expressed concerns about maintenance of current signs and noted there are 20 mph speed sign in the area. Gray stated that he will evaluate the signage on the street and ensure they are properly spaced, etc. Gray suggested that the 20 mph may be on a township road but would not be enforceable.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Legacy Grant – South Shore Park

Larson stated that the Minnesota DNR is soliciting grant applications for the Parks Legacy Grant Program which are due by September 26. She stated that based on the grant requirements, priorities and funding criteria, the South Shore Park Development Project appears to be a good match for the grant program. Although no match is required, the application will rate considerably higher with a cash match greater than 25%. She reviewed the following two options for Council's consideration:

Option 1 – Original Master Plan

The construction cost for this plan is \$2,007,168 plus consultant costs for design and construction (10% allowed under grant) for a total of \$2,207,884.

Legacy Grant (74% of project)	\$1,632,884
City - Grant Cash Match (26%)	\$575,000

Option 2 – Alternate Master Plan

The estimated cost for the alternate master plan is \$1,300,000 plus costs for design and construction (10% allowed) for a total estimated cost of \$1,430,000.

Legacy Grant (74% of project)	\$1,058,200
City – Grant Cash Match (26%)	\$371,800

Council discussed the options and possible funding sources for the match.

Hellquist stated that he was not in favor of utilizing liquor store reserves or internally funding for a match. He noted that adding another park increases the cost of staffing and equipment.

Albrecht stated that there may be changes to the requirements next year and suggested submitting the grant this year without a match.



**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, motion by Hellquist, seconded by Olson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay M. Murphy  
City Clerk