

# CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

## BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

### Regular Meeting – September 21, 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, September 21, 2020 at 6:05 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, Peterson, Johnson, Rivera, Erickson.

Staff Present: City Manager, Nate Mathews, Finance Director Ron Eischens, City Attorney Alan Felix, Assistant City Attorney Katie Nolting, City Engineer Craig Gray, 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:	August 24, 2020
Council Meeting:	September 8, 2020
BEDA Meeting:	September 8, 2020

**Motion by Peterson, seconded by Johnson, 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 \$442,993.68
2. **RESOLUTION NO. 6315:** Declaring Costs to be Assessed, Ordering Preparation of Proposed Assessment Rolls, and Establishing a Date for Public Hearing on City Project 20-01
3. **RESOLUTION NO. 6316:** Declaring Costs to be Assessed, Ordering Preparation of Proposed Assessments Rolls, and Establishing a Date for Public Hearing on City Project 20-02
4. **RESOLUTION NO. 6317:** To Execute Grant Agreement for 2021 DWI Officer

**Motion carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Johnson, Albrecht, Erickson, Peterson, Meehlhause, Rivera.**

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

Reed Sabbe of NETA Property Management spoke about the increase in crime at the Ridgway Courts I and II apartment complexes managed by NETA and inquired of any help that the city could provide with increased policing in order to help control the issues they are having. Council mentioned an initiative previously administered by the Bemidji Rotary Club approximately 20 years which helped to decrease the crime rate in that area is prepared to resume that program.

#### **REPORTS**

Public Arts Commission – Due to technical difficulties they were unable to provide a verbal report.

Dave Hengel and Erin Echternach, Greater Bemidji, provided an update on their role in helping businesses with the COVID crisis as well as the ongoing projects and initiatives they are working on.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Consider Claims Submitted by VenuWorks for the Sanford Center in the amount of \$27,305.26

**Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Rivera, Approving the Claims Submitted by VenuWorks for the Sanford Center in the Amount of \$27,305.26. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Erickson, Peterson, Rivera, Albrecht, Meehlhause. Nays: Johnson.**

Consider Tourist Information Center Lease with VisitBemidji

Peterson recused himself from the discussion and advised of his abstention from any vote on this matter due to a direct conflict of interest due to his role as Executive Director of VisitBemidji.

Mathews stated that the Public Affairs Committee met and reviewed the lease on September 8 and recommends council approve it. The lease would begin on October 1, 2020 for five years and automatically renew for two additional five year terms. The rent is fixed at \$757.50 per year which is \$10.00 a square foot.

**Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Erickson approving the Tourist Information Center Lease Agreement with VisitBemidji. Motion carried with the following roll call vote: Yeas: Johnson, Albrecht, Meehlhause, Rivera, Erickson. Abstain: Peterson**

Consider CARES Act Relief Fund Allocations

Eischens stated that he will need to report to the State the CARES Act Funding allocations for the month of August in the amount of \$101,562. Suggested use of these dollars was made to help upgrade the technology in chambers.

**Motion by Peterson, seconded by Erickson approving the allocation of the CARES Act Funding as summarized for COVID related costs incurred in August in the amount of \$101,562. Motion carried with the following roll call vote: Yeas: Rivera, Peterson, Erickson Meehlhause, Albrecht, Johnson.**

**UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS**

- Monday, October 5 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting
- Monday, October 19 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, motion by Peterson, seconded by Erickson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle R. Miller  
City Clerk