

**CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**  
**BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA**  
**Work Session – September 25, 2017**

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, September 25, 2017, at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of City Hall, Mayor Albrecht presiding.

Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Albrecht, Johnson, Larson, Erickson, Meehlhause, Hellquist and Plemel

Staff Present: City Manager Nate Mathews, Finance Director Ron Eischens, Liquor Superintendent Kevin Fenner, Public Works Director/Engineer Craig Gray, City Attorney Alan Felix and Deputy City Clerk Teresa Hanson

Sunday Sales

The Council discussed sales, customer counts and staffing costs of the two city-owned liquor stores on Sundays, and reviewed what other stores in the area are planning in regards to Sunday sales. Consensus of Council was to close Lakeview Liquor (south store) on Sundays through the winter months, except for holidays and special events such as New Year's Eve and the Super Bowl, and keep Bemidji Discount Liquor (north store) open to allow more time to gauge the market, sales and competition.

New Liquor Store Update/Financing

Council discussed advantages and disadvantages of using Liquor funds to pay cash for land acquisition and the value of having the cash available for unforeseen expenses or funding of other projects that may or may not be known at this time. Eischens noted there are two projects pending with possible future financial commitments (Carnegie Library and Railroad Corridor), so keeping the cash in reserves may prove valuable later, if needed. He added it's simpler to bond for both land and construction costs of the new store since bonding for other projects could be more complex and/or require a public referendum, and the bonds can be structured with prepayment options.

**Motion by Johnson, seconded by Meehlhause, authorizing bonding in early 2018 to cover both land and construction costs for the new liquor store, saving liquor reserves for unplanned and/or unexpected needs. Motion carried with the following vote: Ayes - Albrecht, Johnson, Larson, Meehlhause and Plemel. Nays - Erickson and Hellquist.**

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Johnson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Teresa Hanson  
Deputy City Clerk