

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting – September 6, 2011

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 6, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, Mayor Larson presiding.

Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Larson, Waldhausen, Johnson, Albrecht, Negard, Thompson. Absent: Hellquist.

Staff Present: City Manager John Chattin, City Attorney Alan Felix, Public Works Director/City Engineer Craig Gray, Finance Director Ron Eischens, Deputy City Clerk Michelle Miller

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Mayor Larson called for any amendments to the agenda. **Motion by Johnson, seconded by Thompson, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

MINUTES

Minutes of the August 15, 2011 regular meeting and August 22, 2011 work session were presented for approval. **Motion by Negard, seconded by Johnson, to approve the minutes as prepared. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Claims Submitted by Finance Officer in the amount of \$955,575.42
2. Claims Submitted by the Sanford Center in the amount of \$60,687.65
3. Miscellaneous Business License – New and/or Renewals
4. Off Sale Beer License – Harmony Food Coop (302 Irvine Avenue NW)
5. 1-4 Day Temporary On-Sale Liquor License – BSU Foundation on October 14-15 at BSU Beaux Arts Ballroom
6. Change Order #3 – City Park Project Phase I
7. **RESOLUTION NO. 5711:** Repair or Remove Structure(s) Located at 408 Central Avenue SE

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

No one appeared.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission – No one appeared.

BSU Student Senate – Charlie Woodson and David Andrade introduced themselves to the Council.

Librarian's Report - Paul Ericsson, Branch Manager, reported on the success of the Summer Reading Program, Book Sale and other events at the public library.

NEW BUSINESS

Tax Levy

Eischens stated that pursuant to the action taken at the August 21, 2011 Work Session adjustments were made to the budget to incorporate the following:

- 2% levy increase amounting to \$76,000
- 3.5% gas/electric franchise fee
- Add two officers to the police force
- Include a 1% cost of living increase for City staff
- Add \$10,000 for the Joint Economic Development Commission

In addition to those items, engineering costs were reduced by \$77,000. Eischens reminded Council that once the preliminary levy is approved it can be decreased when the final levy is approved in December but not increased.

RESOLUTION NO. 5712: Approving Preliminary 2011 Tax Levy in the amount of \$3,874,766 Collectible in 2012 and Setting the Truth in Taxation Hearing Date was offered by Councilmember Waldhausen, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Thompson was passed by unanimous vote.

ORDINANCES

Stoner Avenue

Pursuant to published notice, a Public Hearing was held to receive input regarding an Ordinance Changing the Name of Stoner Avenue. Mayor Larson opened the Public Hearing at 7:25 p.m.

The following individuals spoke in opposition to the proposed rental ordinance amendment:

- Nancy Savard, 1318 Stoner Avenue SE, suggested that there are easier solutions than changing the name and that the raising of the street sign on their road has prevented the sign from being stolen for over a year.
- Holly Simmerman, 220 Stoner Avenue NE, stated that the cost of changing their personal information is too much of a burden to residents.

After public comment the public hearing was closed at 7:30 p.m. Council discussion continued regarding the cost and burden to the residents if the road name is changed and to exhaust all solutions to prevent the signs from being stolen.

Motion by Thompson, seconded by Johnson, to table the Ordinance indefinitely and to direct staff to explore other solutions, including raising the sign posts. Motion carried unanimously.

Sales and Use Tax

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 23 of the Bemidji City Code entitled “Sales and Use Tax” to Address Collection of Extended Sales and Use Tax to Pay Eligible Costs for Regional Event Center Project was given a first reading.

Franchise Fee

An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 418, 2nd Series, Modifying the Rate Design and Corresponding Electric Utility Franchise Fee in Franchise Fee Agreement with Beltrami Electric Cooperative, Inc., Based on the Provision of Electric Service within the City of Bemidji was given a first reading.

An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 420, 2nd Series, Modifying the Rate Design and Corresponding Electric Utility Franchise Fee in Franchise Agreement with Otter Tail Power Company, Based on the Provision of Electric Service within the City of Bemidji was given a first reading.

An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 422, 2nd Series, Modifying the Rate Design and Corresponding Natural Gas Utility Franchise Fee in Franchise Agreement with Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation, Based on the Provision of Gas Service within the City of Bemidji was given a first reading.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Monday, September 12 5:30 p.m. Work Session – Charter Commission
- Monday, September 19 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting
- Thursday, September 22 6:00 p.m. Joint Meeting with Rural Fire Service Committee @ Sanford Center

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT

- Council members and staff provided updates on current events and meetings.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Johnson, seconded by Thompson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michelle R. Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michelle R. Miller
Deputy City Clerk