

2020
BEMIDJI CITY COUNCIL

Mayor
Rita Albrecht

Council Members
Michael Meehlhause, Ward 1
Josh Peterson, Ward 2
Ron Johnson, Ward 3
Emelie Rivera, Ward 4
Nancy Erickson, Ward 5
Vacant, At Large

Staff Usually in Attendance
Nate Mathews, City Manager
Alan Felix, City Attorney
Michelle Miller, City Clerk
Ron Eischens, Finance Director
Craig Gray, Public Works Director/City Engineer

Copies of the agenda and a complete copy of the Council packet are available near the entrance to the Council Chambers. The agenda and packet is also posted on the City's website (www.ci.bemidji.mn.us) the Friday before the Council meeting.

Council meetings are open to the public. Residents are encouraged to attend or may view from home on Channel 2 as well as on the website.



Guide to City Council
Meetings
2020

Welcome to the Bemidji City Council Meeting &
Thank You for your active citizenship!

NOTE: All cellular devices to be switched to a non-audible function during Council and Committee meetings. Thank you.



Bemidji City Hall, 317 4th Street NW
Bemidji, MN 56601

Phone: 218-759-3570

Fax: 218-759-3590

Visit our web site: www.ci.bemidji.mn.us

AGENDA FORMAT

- Consent Agenda - Composed of those items that require only routine review by the City Council and are approved with one motion without any debate. Any council member can request an item be removed from the consent agenda.
- Committee Reports - The Council has several committees that may report at this time.
- Citizens with business before the Council not on the agenda - This is an opportunity for any citizen to speak to the Council on an item not on the agenda. Speakers will usually be limited to three (3) minutes, and should not expect a decision by the Council.
- Public Hearings - A public hearing is an opportunity for citizens to speak on the subject of the hearing. The procedures used during a public hearing are listed below. The mayor is responsible to conduct the hearing and may establish additional procedures to ensure that the hearing is conducted in an orderly manner.
- Old Business - Council agenda items that have been previously addressed by the Council that require additional consideration.
- New Business - Council agenda items that have not previously been addressed by the Council.
- Ordinances - Each ordinance requires three readings and a public hearing. Ordinances that are scheduled for a public hearing will be listed under the Ordinance section of the agenda.
- Council & Staff Reports

PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. The Mayor will ask the manager for an overview of the issue or project.
2. The Mayor will invite questions from the Council for clarification.
3. The Mayor will open the public hearing.
4. Citizens wishing to address the Council should approach the podium and follow the procedures below. Speakers will be limited to **three (3)** minutes.
5. The Mayor will close the hearing.
6. The Council will discuss the issue or project and vote on the action required.

PROCEDURE FOR ADDRESSING THE COUNCIL

Ordinarily comments from the public are only allowed during public hearings or during the “citizens with business before the Council not on the agenda” portion of the meeting. If you want to speak to an agenda item that is not a public hearing, you should notify the Mayor or a Council member before the meeting.

1. At the appropriate time in the meeting, the Mayor will ask if anyone wishes to speak on the issue. Raise your hand to get the mayor’s attention.
2. When recognized by the Mayor, step to the podium.
3. State your name and address and (if appropriate, the organization you represent).
4. State your comment(s). Comments shall be directed to the Mayor and the Council as a whole. The Mayor will determine if the comment requires a responses and if so who should respond.
5. The Mayor will limit comments to three (3) minutes. After everyone has had a chance to speak, the Mayor may invite citizens to speak again if time allows. The Mayor may allow additional time as needed.
6. Council members who have a question or comment should get recognized by the Mayor before addressing the person at the podium or asking a question of another Council member or the city manager.
7. Comments shall be limited to those pertaining to matters before the Council, city business, or policy, or to issues of community concern. The Mayor will stop any inappropriate comments, abusive language, or personal attacks.

Americans with Disabilities Act: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in a City meeting or other services offered by this City, please contact our office at (218)759-3570. Notification of at least 96 hours prior to the meeting or time when services are needed will assist the City staff in assuring that reasonable arrangements can be made to provide accessibility to the meeting or services.



The City Council conducts regular business meetings on the first and third Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Work sessions are on the second Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. If a regular meeting falls on a holiday, the regular meeting will be conducted on Tuesday.