

# RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

## A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BEMIDJI TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MINNESOTA BIRD CITY PROGRAM AND RECOGNIZING INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

**WHEREAS**, the City of Bemidji has a long history of supporting bird habitat by managing parks, natural areas, trail corridors and open space; using native plants in public landscaping; promoting urban forestry; offering environmental educational programs; and participating in Tree City USA, Mayor's Monarch Pledge, GreenStep City, Guaranteed Energy Savings Program and other initiatives to achieve sustainability and quality of life goals; and

**WHEREAS**, migratory birds are some of the most beautiful and easily observed wildlife that enhance our community and quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, our citizens recognize and welcome migratory songbirds as harbingers of spring and enjoy bird-watching and nature photography; and

**WHEREAS** enjoying birds connects people to the outdoors, involves them in the community, and promotes good health and social connections; and migrating birds promote tourism and bird watching activities; and

**WHEREAS**, birds and their habitats are declining and birds are facing a growing number of threats on their migration routes and in their summer and winter homes; and

**WHEREAS**, public awareness is a crucial component of migratory bird conservation; and citizens enthusiastic about birds, informed about the threats they face, and empowered to help address those threats can directly contribute to maintaining healthy bird populations; and

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota Audubon promotes Bird City Minnesota to celebrate communities that improve bird habitat, reduce threats to birds, and engage their citizens in conservation action; and Bird City Minnesota provides a roadmap for communities to include the needs of birds in their planning and operations; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1993 International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) has been focusing public attention on the nearly 350 bird species that travel between nesting habitats in Bemidji and their wintering grounds in South and Central America, Mexico, the Caribbean, and the southern U.S; and

**WHEREAS**, hundreds of thousands of people participate in IMBD celebrations as a call to action to foster appreciation for wild birds and to celebrate and support migratory bird conservation; and

**WHEREAS**, a broad coalition of local public and private stakeholders, including the City of Bemidji, Mississippi Headwaters Audubon Society, Bemidji Monarch Committee, Headwaters Science Center, Bogs and Logs Master Naturalists, Bemidji State University Sustainability Office, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Northwest Regional Office and Lake Bemidji State Park, have been working to identify and implement activities that restore, protect and improve bird habitat, reduce threats, and engage people in learning about, enjoying and helping birds;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the City Council of the City of Bemidji does hereby authorize the City of Bemidji (the "City") to participate in the Bird City Minnesota program. Be it further resolved that the City:

1. Submits an application for Bird City designation to Minnesota Audubon including a list of actions for Minnesota Bird City best practices; and
2. Participates with the Bemidji Bird City workgroup in planning, promoting and implementing Bird City Minnesota best practices; and
3. Proclaims June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 as the first annual International Migratory Bird Day in the City of Bemidji and urges all citizens to celebrate this day and support efforts to protect and conserve migratory birds and their habitats in our community and the world at large.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_, who moved its adoption, and on due second by Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_, was passed by the following vote:

Ayes:  
Nays:  
Absent:

Passed:

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kay M. Murphy, City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rita Larson, Mayor