



City Administrator's Weekly Update

WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 3, 2017

Upcoming Events:

February 6, 4:30 pm
Parks Commission
City Hall

February 7, 5:30 pm
Council Work Session
City Hall

February 7, 7:00 pm
City Council Meeting
City Hall

February 15, 6:00 pm
CAFD Board
Station 2 - Perch Lake

February 21, 5:30 pm
Council Work Session
City Hall

February 21, 7:00 pm
City Council Meeting
City Hall

February 28, 4:15 pm
Library Board
Public Library

February 28, 7:00 pm
Planning Commission
City Hall

Administration/Finance

Personnel

The City took part in mediation this week regarding an employee grievance. A mediated settlement between the 2 parties was reached.

New Middle School Tour

The City Council has been invited to tour the construction site of the new Cloquet Middle School on February 8th at 3:30 p.m. If any Councilor is interested in participating, please let me know so I can inform the District and give directions to you on the exact location where you need to check in for the tour.

Deer Hunt Zone Changes

There are some potential changes being considered by the DNR regarding the deer zones in Cloquet. They will be holding a public meeting on the proposed changes on March 6th. Once we receive further information, we will pass it on to the Council. With this change we will also need to review our Code relating to our local deer hunt to make sure that it does not create any problems.

Public Works/Parks

Miscellaneous

It's winter again this week! Crews have been busy plowing snow and flooding rinks. Staff is working with a contractor on the purchase of new hockey boards for Sunnyside Park. We will be downsizing the rink a bit making it similar in size to the rink at Pinehurst Park.

Design work on the Dunlap Island Park and Broadway streetscape projects continue. Staff will be meeting next week with our consultants to review the 60% completed plans.

Staff will be participating in an upcoming Emerald Ash Borer workshop with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. With the City now being part of the quarantine zone, we need to understand our responsibilities and any actions that we should be taking as a city related to this problem.

Public Works staff spent 3 days this week updating and training on our online GIS system. The system allows online access to all of our infrastructure mapping and maintenance history.

OSHA returned to City Hall to review preliminary findings of their walk through of various facilities last week. A final report will be submitted to the City in the next few days however, no major issues were identified.

Community Development

Development

This week Community Development was successful in being awarded \$193,000 in bonding dollars from Minnesota Housing for the First Time Homebuyer program. See the attached announcement for details.

Dave Hallback, Mayor

City Council Members:

Jeff Rock, Ward 1
David Bjerkness, Ward 2
Roger Maki, Ward 3
Kerry Kolodge, Ward 4
Steve Langley, Ward 5
Adam Bailey, At Large

Brian Fritsinger,
City Administrator
1307 Cloquet Avenue
Cloquet, MN 55720
(218)879-3347
bfritsinger@ci.cloquet.mn.us

Visit Our Website at:
www.ci.cloquet.mn.us

The EDA met this week and reviewed a draft of the Downtown Cloquet Revitalization Strategy. The Board is weighing all of the information received from a series of meetings held last year with the business community to try and develop a strategic plan for this mission. I expect that the EDA will continue these discussions over its next few meetings before specifics are made firm.

The purchase by Best Oil of the former Cloquet Home Center building was featured in a nice article in this week's Pine Journal.

Fox 21 stopped by City Hall to cover a story on new business activity in downtown Cloquet. Follow the link to view the story: <http://www.fox21online.com/2017/02/02/cloquet-working-revitalize-downtown-business-districts/>.

Staff and Engineering met this week with the development team who will be rebuilding on the Friends of Animals site starting May 1st. Staff remained busy scheduling and conducting building inspections this week including a final for MedExpress set to open next week.

SKB Landfill Planning Case

SKB has requested that its application for amendments to its CUP be tabled for a period of time due to some unforeseen circumstances with the company and to provide greater opportunity for information sharing. Staff will inform the Council and community when further details are determined.

*"Keep on going, and the chances are that you will stumble on something,
perhaps when you are least expecting it.
I never heard of anyone ever stumbling on something sitting down."
- Charles F. Kettering,
Head of Research at GM from 1920-1947*

Other Information Attached:

- * January Building Permit Report
- * Minnesota Housing for the First Time Homebuyer Announcement
January 25, 2017 FEMA Letter

Monthly report of January 2016**City of Cloquet**

Type	Permits		
	Number Issued	Value	Amount
ADMIN COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL	1	80 000.00	893.75
ADMINISTRATIVE PERMIT	4	24 096.00	550.55
MECHANICAL PERMIT	10	0.00	470.00
PLUMBING	2	0.00	230.00
REROOF OR RESIDE	1	0.00	101.00
SIGN	2	0.00	121.00
Total	20	104 096.00	2 366.30

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Monthly report of January 2017**City of Cloquet**

Type	Permits		
	Number Issued	Value	Amount
ADDITION/REMODEL COMMERICAL OR INDUSTRIAL	1	400 000.00	4 446.69
ADMIN COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL	2	306 000.00	1 347.20
ADMINISTRATIVE PERMIT	6	37 069.00	771.89
MECHANICAL PERMIT	10	0.00	360.00
PLUMBING	4	0.00	230.00
REROOF OR RESIDE	1	0.00	101.00
SIGN	1	0.00	0.00
Total	25	743 069.00	7 256.78



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
1307 Cloquet Avenue • Cloquet MN 55720
Phone: 218-879-2507 • Fax: 218-879-6555

The City of Cloquet is working with Minnesota Housing to provide affordable first-time homebuyer loans

The City of Cloquet is partnering with Minnesota Housing to provide affordable mortgages to first-time homebuyers through the Start Up loan program. The program will run through November 30, 2017.

Start Up offers fixed interest rates and down payment and closing cost loans up to \$10,000 for eligible first-time homebuyers. Buyers can purchase homes in the City of Cloquet that cost up to \$255,500.

“Minnesota Housing’s affordable loans, combined with the support of the City of Cloquet and local lenders, will help more families achieve homeownership,” said Minnesota Housing Commissioner Mary Tingerthal.

Minnesota Housing is a state agency that provides access to safe and affordable housing and builds stronger communities across the state. Minnesota Housing offers purchase, refinance, and home improvement loans, as well as financing for affordable rental housing throughout the state.

“We appreciate these dedicated housing bonding dollars from Minnesota Housing for Cloquet as First Time Home Buyers represent a large part of our area home buyers,” said Holly Hansen, Community Development Director for the City of Cloquet. The City of Cloquet was awarded \$192,731, an award amount based on population.

First-time buyers can get started by contacting participating lenders in the City of Cloquet area. Visit www.mnhousing.gov for a full list of approved lenders, current interest rates, and program eligibility. Currently there are three approved Cloquet lenders, for questions:

- Cindy Koonce ckoonce@woodlandsbank.net; (320) 532-7000 ext. 9004
Woodlands National Bank 240 North Cloquet Road Cloquet, MN 55720. If you stop in the Cloquet Office ask for Jamie Langhorst or Deanna Benjamin.
- Brandy Meidl (218) 878-7867 brandy.meidl@usbank.com
U.S. Bank 715 Cloquet Avenue Cloquet, MN 55720
- Anna Carlson (218) 625-1263 acarlson@banknorthshore.com
North Shore Mortgage 807 Cloquet Avenue Cloquet, MN 55720



FEMA

January 25, 2017

Honorable Dave Hallback
Mayor, City of Cloquet
1307 Cloquet Avenue
Cloquet, MN, 55720

Re: 30 Day Engineering Models Notification

Dear Mayor Hallback:

Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (Risk MAP) is a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) program that helps communities identify, assess, and reduce their flood risk. By combining quality engineering with updated flood hazard data, FEMA provides accurate and easy-to-use information to enhance local mitigation plans, improve community outreach, and increase local awareness to flood hazards. As a part of this initiative, and as a result of the Discovery meetings held within the St. Louis River Watershed in November 2014, FEMA is funding STARR II and the Minnesota DNR (MNDNR) to develop and disseminate new floodplain data for identified stream reaches.

Over the next two years, hydrologic and hydraulic analyses will be developed for select stream reaches in City of Cloquet and used to determine new Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) that will be presented on draft work maps. The SFHA is an area that is subject to inundation by the 1-percent-annual-chance flood (also called the base flood). FEMA conducts updates to community Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for many reasons; these include availability of more current and accurate source data such as topography information (LiDAR) and rainfall. In addition, local drainage patterns can change due to changing land use and/or natural forces. Given these factors, the likelihood of flooding in certain areas may have increased or decreased over time, changing the SFHA designations and mapped floodplain.

FEMA standards require that you receive written notification of the streams to be studied and modeling methods that will be used to identify flood hazards in your community. These are summarized in the enclosed Engineering Models Summary Table and online map viewer. We encourage you to access the online map viewer at this web site: <http://bit.ly/stlcountywatershed> for further review of the stream reach locations.

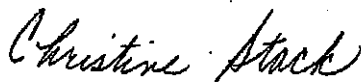
In St. Louis County and the St. Louis Watershed several methods will be used to calculate peak flow rates. Regression equations, gage analysis or rainfall runoff models will be used to calculate peak flow rates as data availability and study parameters require. These analyses will be performed in accordance with one or more of the following documents: *FEMA's Guidance for Flood Risk Analysis and Mapping: General Hydrologic Considerations (May 2016)*; *Bulletin 17b Guidelines for Determining Flood Flow Frequency*; and the *U.S. Geological Survey's Water-Resources Investigations Report 03-4250, Flood-Frequency Characteristics of Wisconsin Streams*. The HEC-RAS 5.0 hydraulic modeling software will be used to calculate water surface elevations and inundation extents of each modeled reach. These modeling methods are standard for determining the 1-percent-annual-chance floodplain in FEMA approximate and detail study areas. The attached table does not include effective and valid-status Flood Insurance Study (FIS) model data; updated floodplain mapping for these streams will consist of re-delineation using best available topography or LiDAR.

Upon receipt of this notification, your community will have 30 days to consult with Sarah Hayman at FEMA Region V (email: sarah.hayman@fema.dhs.gov, phone: 312-408-5344) or Vikram Shrivastava with the STARR II contractor team (email: yikram.shrivastava@atkinsglobal.com, phone: 240-264-8904) regarding any

questions or comments on the appropriateness of the selected methodology for updating the identified stream miles on City of Cloquet FIRMs.

There will be additional opportunities throughout the mapping process for your community to review, comment on, and submit formal appeals to draft flood hazard information. We look forward to working with you and other community officials to increase flood risk awareness and mitigation actions in City of Cloquet.

Sincerely,



Christine Stack
Director, Mitigation Division
FEMA Region V

cc: Holly Butcher, Community Development, City of Cloquet
Ceil Strauss, State NFIP Coordinator, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Sarah Hayman, Project Engineer, FEMA Region V
Tom Smith, Community Planning Specialist, FEMA Region V
Vikram Shrivastava, Project Manager, STARR II