



City Administrator's Weekly Update

WEEK ENDING MARCH 25, 2017

Upcoming Events:

March 28, 4:15 pm
Library Board
Library

March 28, 7:00 pm
Planning Commission
City Hall

April 3, 4:30 pm
Parks Commission
City Hall

April 4, 5:30 pm
Council Work Session
City Hall

April 4, 7:00 pm
City Council Meeting
City Hall

April 5, 8:00 am
EDA
City Hall

April 13, 4:30 pm
Cable Commission

April 18, 5:30 pm
Council Work Session
City Hall

April 18, 7:00 pm
City Council
City Hall

April 19, 6:00 pm
CAFD Board

Administration/Finance

Personnel

Staff has been busy gathering information for the recruitment firm Springsted-Waters to use as they start the City Administrator search process. A representative from Springsted is tentatively scheduled to meet with Council members and Department Heads next week to discuss what search expectations are.

Sunday Off- Sale Liquor Sales

The Council approved amending Chapter 6 of City Code to allow for the sale of intoxicating liquor on Sundays. This amendment is a result of the most recent legislative session enacting the new law authorizing Sunday sales as of July 1, 2017.

Public Works/Parks

Engineering staff was busy this week preparing for the 2017 construction season. Bids were received for summer ditch mowing and the proposed mountain bike trail at Pine Valley.

Staff continues to coordinate with SEH and area contractors on final bid documents for the proposed 2017 Riverfront Improvements. Feedback from contractors on splitting the bid documents between architectural and general improvements has been mixed. There is potential for some cost savings up front but it appears that savings would be minimal compared to the potential liabilities involved with coordinating two separate contracts simultaneously. The loss in efficiency combined with general contractor mark ups, which are likely to be less than anticipated, has resulted in a recommendation to bid the improvements as one bid package.

The utility department continues to prepare for a large volume of work scheduled to take place on the Lake Superior Waterline during Sappi's schedule slowdown the week of April 4th. In addition to our normal tank cleaning and inspection work, we have a number of mechanical revisions planned at the two pump stations to address concerns expressed by the DNR and MPCA over the past year.

With warm and wet weather being forecasted for next week, the street sweeper made its first appearance this week as we begin our annual spring clean-up duties.

Community Development

Country Club Townhomes Development

Council approved a public hearing date of May 2nd relating to a tax increment financing request for the construction of 12 patio homes near the Cloquet Country Club. Staff is preparing reports for the Planning Commission and EDA on the site plan, plat, and project pro forma.

Taco Bell

Council also approved the Site Plan for Taco Bell at the former Friends of Animals site on Highway 33 South. The site plan included parking, landscaping, grading, drainage and building location.

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

James Barclay,
Interim City
Administrator
1307 Cloquet Avenue
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Zoning

The Planning Commission is moving forward to codify a zoning text amendment for breweries, taprooms and brew pubs, indicating what zoning districts they can be located in. Staff will also be initiating a zoning text amendment to define the meaning of a “special event.”

Small Cities Grant

Staff held a conference call with DEED this week regarding a formal request to expand the residential target area for the Small Cities Grant. Unfortunately, this request was denied causing staff to regroup and develop a marketing campaign which includes advertising in the Pine Journal, the City’s Facebook page, and on the City’s website. If challenges continue with eligible applicants, the City will once again turn to the state for assistance.

*“Luck is a matter of preparation
meeting opportunity”
- Seneca, Roman Philosopher*