



City Administrator's Weekly Update

Week Ending March 25, 2016



Upcoming Events

March 26, 11:00 am
Easter in Pine Valley

March 29, 6:30 pm
Special Work Session
City Hall

March 31
Winter Parking Ends

April 4, 4:30 pm
Parks Commission
City Hall

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

April 5, 7:00 pm
City Council Meeting
City Hall

April 5, 7:00 pm
Public Hearings, West
Taylor Avenue and 8th
Street Proposed
Assessments
City Hall

April 6, 6:30 pm
3rd Street public
information meeting
City Hall

Brian Fritsinger
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Cloquet MN 55720
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ADMINISTRATION

PERSONNEL

Things were busy in the area of personnel this week. Some of the activities included:

- * James Barclay, our new Assistant City Administrator/HR Director started Monday;
- * Interviews for the Children's Librarian position;
- * Review of applications for the Engineering Intern position; and
- * Negotiations with the IAFF continued.

LIQUOR LICENSING

Staff has been working on the license renewal process for businesses that hold liquor, tobacco, and various other licenses that expire June 30th.

BACK PACK PROGRAM

Just a reminder that during the month of March, a collection drive for students in need is being held. The Backpack Program provides school counselors supplies for students in all grades who are in need. Some suggested items for donation include Pop Tarts, Beef Jerky, Granola Bars, Fruit Cups, Socks, Underwear, Sweat Pants, Leggings, Deodorant, Soap, Shampoo/Conditioner, Female Hygiene Products, etc. A donation box has been set up in the lobby of City Hall if you are interested in donating.

Scanlon Merger Discussions

The Scanlon City Council voted this week to move forward with the Ehlers timeline/guidelines for the development of a plan that would allow the residents of the community to vote on a possible merger. The Cloquet City Council will be having further conversations on this topic over the coming weeks.

SHAMROCK LANDFILL

City staff and the Mayor met with the owners of the Shamrock Landfill this week to discuss certain plans of the operation. I expect that further discussions will take place in the near future.

PUBLIC WORKS/PARKS

MISCELLANEOUS

As a follow up to the City Council meeting with the Cloquet Area Hockey Association, staff met with representatives to continue talks on the future capital and operational needs of the facility.

HWY 33 IMPROVEMENTS

The Hwy 33 Mill & Overlay – St. Louis River to Stark Road project will be bid on April 22nd with the start of construction projected for July 18th.

3RD STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

After receiving a number of calls regarding neighborhood concerns on this project, Councilors Wilkinson and Maki met with neighborhood residents to talk about those concerns. As a result, City staff has scheduled a neighborhood meeting on April 6th to allow for further public engagement.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

CLOQUET MIDDLE SCHOOL

Staff participated in two public forums with the School District to help residents understand the proposed reuse of the existing Middle School for housing. One of the meetings was intended for the broader community and the other was sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce for the business community.

The Planning Commission has recommended approval of the site plan for the new Middle School project.

KWIK TRIP

Staff met with Carlton County this week to continue discussions regarding the traffic and access safety concerns identified by the City Council.

OTHER INFORMATION ATTACHED

- * Notice of 3rd Street informational meeting
- * Kwik Trip letter * Mediacom Press Release

"A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don't necessarily want to go, but ought to be." - Rosalynn Carter



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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Street – Water – Sewer - Engineering
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March 23, 2016

**RE: Notice of Public Information Meeting on Proposed Improvement,
Reconstruction of 3rd Street from Cloquet Avenue to Carlton Avenue.**

Dear 3rd Street Resident:

On Wednesday, March 2, 2016 the City Council held a Public Hearing to consider formal public input on the proposed improvement of 3rd Street from Cloquet Avenue to Carlton Avenue. Since that meeting, the City has received a number of questions and concerns regarding the proposed project. **At your request, an informal public information meeting has been scheduled for 6:30pm Wednesday April 6, 2016 at Cloquet City Hall.** All available residents and property owners wishing to discuss the project further are encouraged to attend.

Sincerely,

Caleb Peterson
Assistant City Engineer

cc Mayor and City Council
Brian Fritsinger

Hello Mayor Hallback and the Cloquet City Council:

I am writing to you as a citizen of Cloquet since 1977. Through the years, I have seen this city transform and change and expand, and from my perspective, not all of it has been beneficial to its citizens. I would like to address my concerns with the proposed Kwik-Trip that is set to be built on the corner of Washington Ave and 8th Street.

One key element of living a successful life is making a home for your family. At one point, the Washington school area was one of the ideal areas of the city to live in, people planted roots, and people planned on retiring in those homes. This is a strong example of 4 families, the Manisto's, the Bromberg's, the Grover's, and the Preiner's, all of whom live from the 800 to 1000 block of Washington Ave, directly across the street of the proposed site. Their hard work, their retirement homes, their "golden years" are being disrupted by this. One of the four families has since put their home on the market to try and sell.

This is not a perfect city. But one thing this city has always been based on is neighbor helping neighbor. Looking after your home when you went on vacation, helping snow shovel the sidewalk, always being there to lend a hand. Seemingly, this concept has started to fade through the years, when all I hear is that this new store will bring in money for the Zion church, will bring in money for the owners of Taco John's to be able to sell a piece of their land, and ultimately, bring money to the city, by having yet another business come into the city. Who is looking at the decrease in home value of the residents? Who is looking at the years of hard work that these people put into their lives to have a happy retirement, only for the retribution to make the city money?

This point aside, the biggest aspect is ultimately the safety of your citizens, the ones who voted all of you into office. The intersection of Washington and 8th is already one of the most dangerous in the city, and many people avoid it, even if it means driving 10-15 minutes out of their way. With the added business added in, with the added vehicles and pedestrians, how long will it take for first accident? There are already countless near misses there now. How many accidents, how many injuries will it take? How much

money to repair for the accidents does it take to second guess to add this store? How many lives are worth the added revenue?

That intersection is not built for what they are proposing. Holmes Drive/ 8th street is not built for what they are proposing. The added semi-trucks and RV's that will be coming in using their Diesel pumps alone will be hazardous to every other vehicle and every pedestrian trying to go in and out of that area. Add in the semi-trucks and other delivery vehicles and the 500+ patrons per hour (for peak hours) that the Vice President from Kwik Trip quoted, and I am not sure that anyone has really fathomed the increased traffic. When the semis leave this location and turn onto the frontage road/ 8th street, and they have to take two lanes to turn to get out, and a car is driving in their lane, and there is an accident, or a near miss, or even just a stoppage and back up in traffic, what are we as citizens to do? Needless to say, 8th street is not built for such large vehicles. Needless to say, if there is a backup of vehicles that spills onto Washington Ave, it has the potential to leak into backups onto Highway 33. The owner of the Ford Dealership stated that he already has semi's delivering to his location. But when he does, that truck blocks an entire lane of traffic and two lanes become one, where citizens must drive into oncoming traffic to get around.

There is also going to be a snowball effect. Right now we have buses and students from the Cloquet High School, buses and students from the Washington Elementary School, and students from Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College frequenting the stretch of road between 14th Street and 8th Street. With the Middle School relocating to Washington Avenue, that is only going to compound the issue.

Issues that were also brought up at the last meeting were speed and parking on the road. Add in the increase in traffic, the added pedestrians, and limited space alongside the road, I ask again, how many accidents, injuries, or even a death would it take to make having a Kwik-Trip at this site a bad idea?

I am not the only citizen who has these concerns. I have heard it from countless

neighbors, family members, friends, and even random people that I have overheard at Walmart. I am here to voice my opinion to the one that we, the citizens, voted into office. I really hope that you hear what I am trying to say, and take into consideration before the City Council votes on having a Kwik-Trip at this proposed site, that this is not the site in town to have another high traffic business located.

Thank you for your time and consideration

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joyce Simone". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J".

Joyce Simone



Thomas J. Larsen
Senior Vice President
Government & Public Relations

March 21, 2016

Dear Mayor and City Leaders:

In March 1996, Mediacom began acquiring and reinvigorating cable systems in the nation's underserved markets. Our mission was simple: offer the small and mid-sized communities we serve the same or better communications and video services as America's largest cities. Through the hard work and commitment of our 4,600 U.S. based employees, I am proud to say that, over the past two decades, we have delivered on that promise.

Now the time has come to go even further by giving our customers access to one of the fastest broadband networks in the world. To that end, we announced last week **a \$1 billion capital investment plan** that will help fund a number of important customer initiatives over the next 3 years (see Attachment).

Headlining our list of projects:

- the wide-scale deployment of 1 gigabit per second broadband services to virtually all of the 3 million homes and businesses located within our 22 state footprint;
- the expansion of the Mediacom Business fiber network to create more "lit-buildings" within downtown areas and commercial districts in our markets;
- the extension of our residential video, Internet, and phone network to pass an additional 50,000 homes;
- and the launch of community Wi-Fi throughout commercial areas across our national footprint.

The combination of these exciting new projects with our continued focus on improving the customer experience will ensure that Mediacom stays at the forefront as a major contributor to the economic growth and business development of the communities we serve. Unlike some other broadband providers whose services rely on federal, state or local taxpayer subsidies, the investment Mediacom is making to bring 1-Gig and other services to your community is being funded entirely by private money.

Thank you for the continued opportunity to serve your community. With Mediacom's announcement of a \$1 billion capital investment plan over the next 3 years, I believe our collective future is very bright.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Larsen", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Tom Larsen



For Immediate Release

Mediacom Communications Marks 20th Anniversary by Announcing \$1 Billion Capital Investment

Wide-scale Deployment of 1-Gig Broadband Service Headlines List of Company Initiatives

Mediacom Park, NY – March 14, 2016 – In recognition of the 20th anniversary of its first cable system purchase, Mediacom Communications announced today that the Company intends to invest \$1 billion over the next 3 years to, among other projects, upgrade and expand its national broadband network. Headlining the list of planned company initiatives is “Project Gigabit,” a wide-scale deployment of 1 gigabit per second broadband services to virtually all of the 3 million homes and businesses within the 1,500 communities located in Mediacom’s 22 state footprint.

“From the time we acquired our first cable system in March 1996, Mediacom’s focus has always been to offer the smaller communities we serve the same communications and video services that are available in America’s largest cities,” said Mediacom’s founder and CEO, Rocco B. Commisso. “Project Gigabit will allow us to go even further by giving our customers access to one of the fastest broadband networks in the world.”

Project Gigabit will build upon the residential gigabit product launches completed by Mediacom in 2015 and the widely available Gigabit+ Fiber Solutions™ offered by Mediacom Business today. The Company expects to bring the first wave of Project Gigabit communities online as early as the fourth quarter of 2016. Unlike some other 1-Gig providers whose services are limited to selected neighborhoods and/or are relying on federal, state or local taxpayer subsidies, Mediacom will invest its own money to make gigabit speeds available to essentially all of the residences and businesses along its network.

In addition to Project Gigabit, Mediacom’s \$1 billion capital investment plan will fund a number of other important customer initiatives including:

- Expansion of Mediacom Business’s high-capacity network inside downtown areas and commercial districts in order to create more “lit buildings” within the Company’s footprint and bring tens of thousands of new business customers on-net with immediate access to fiber-based communications services.
- Extension of Mediacom’s deep-fiber residential video, Internet and phone network in order to pass at least an additional 50,000 homes.
- Deployment of community Wi-Fi access points throughout high-traffic commercial and public areas across Mediacom’s national footprint.

“The \$4.2 billion in private capital invested by Mediacom over the last 20 years has allowed us to, among other things, create an all-digital video network, launch a variety of advanced broadband services and deploy nearly 600,000 strand miles of fiber,” continued Commisso. “We decided to accelerate our capital spending over the next 3 years because our Company wants to be the engine that drives economic growth and development for businesses and residents in the communities we serve.”

About Mediacom Communications

Mediacom Communications Corporation is the eighth largest cable operator in the U.S. serving about 1.3 million customers in smaller markets primarily in the Midwest and Southeast through its wholly-owned subsidiaries, Mediacom Broadband LLC and Mediacom LLC. Mediacom offers a wide array of information, communications and entertainment services to households and businesses, including video, high-speed data, phone, and home security and automation. Through Mediacom Business, the company provides innovative broadband solutions to commercial and public sector customers of all sizes, and sells advertising and production services under the OnMedia brand. More information about Mediacom is available at www.mediacomcc.com.

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