

CLOQUET CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Thursday, November 8, 2018

Councilors Present: Bjerckness, Kolodge, Langley, Maki, Rock, Wyman, Mayor Hallback

Absent: None

Staff: Barclay, Klassen, Peterson, Anderson, Palmer

2019 Final Budget Discussion

Mr. Reeves discussed final updates being made on the proposed 2019 budget based on current year to date expenditures and other minor changes. The updated budget will be reviewed at the November 20th Work Session and adopted at the December 4th Council meeting.

As part of the budget discussion, Debra Shaff and Bob Nelson of the Cloquet HRA were present to explain their request for support of City funding in the amount of \$35,000 in 2019 or for levy authority in future years for its Section 8/HCV program. Ms. Shaff reviewed their 2018 budget and stated that rising administrative costs have necessitated the need to secure additional funding to continue providing housing subsidies throughout the City of Cloquet and Carlton County.

Review of the different programs that are offered by the HRA was given and discussion followed regarding what Administrative Fees include; what the county's position is; and what other options are being considered to help alleviate their funding gap.

Mr. Reeves stated his reasons for not supporting this request, Council agreed with him.

Update of budget items removed for Council consideration:

- Council agreed to add back the Baseball Field Scoreboards at Braun Park for a one-time cost of \$50,000
- Agreement to revisit the CGMC membership in 2020
- Agreement to wait for the Veterans Park electrical upgrade of \$39,000 to see if legislation passes the amended request to use sales tax dollars

Mr. Reeves discussed Council interest in franchise fees for electric and natural gas services. Fees would go into the street utility fund to assist in funding future street projects. Mr. Reeves recommends the flat rate option of charging each residential or commercial/industrial user a flat amount each month. Councilors were asked to bring any questions/concerns to the November 20th Work Session and to provide direction on if he should start the process.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aaron Reeves
City Administrator