

CLOQUET CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Tuesday, November 20, 2018

Councilors Present: Bjerkness, Kolodge, Langley, Rock, Wyman
Absent: Mayor Hallback, Maki
Staff: Klassen, Hansen, Peterson, K. Schroeder (CAFD)

Public Safety Building Transfer to CAFD

Discussion of options for transferring the current public safety building to the CAFD. Mr. Reeves is in favor of transferring it for \$1 with the condition that if the CAFD sells it in the future, any profits above the amount spent on repairs would be split between the CAFD and the City.

Chief Schroeder stated the long-term plan is not to stay in the building, but it buys them time to finish with legislation and start construction on a new building. Repairs to be made to the building include a new roof, plumbing and electrical. Repairs are estimated at \$260,000. The building does not provide enough space to host the entire department, but the goal of a future new facility will be to bring the department to one central location.

CAFD Board member Eric Risch voiced his concern with moving forward with a \$1 transfer of the building and if it can't be sold in the future after doing extensive repairs, what will the options be at that time? Discussion followed regarding what responsibility the city would have, the cost of demolishing it or selling it to another business.

Council is in agreement with transferring the building to the CAFD for \$1. The agreement will be updated and presented for approval to the CAFD Board and then City Council at their December 4th. meeting. Transfer of the building can occur any time after the police department has moved out in early 2019.

CAFD 2019 Budget Levy/Update

Chief Schroeder gave a brief review of the CAFD Budget/Levy for 2019. He explained the substantial levy increase of 10.5% is due to staffing increases and facilities issues. There is a 2.4% tax increase for Cloquet residents. Also noted is the 8% increase in staffing due to increased ambulance runs.

2019 Final Budget and CIP Review

Mr. Reeves gave a final review of the proposed 2019 budget. Staff is recommending a 1.5% levy decrease. Review of the estimated tax impact statement reflecting the levy decrease. The CIP has not changed since the last review. Projects reflected in the CIP are accounted for in the budget.

The public hearing will take place at the December 4th Council meeting before the budget approval

Snow Removal

Discussion of sidewalk snow removal. Citizens have voiced concern over kids walking on the streets to school. The city does not have an ordinance regarding private sidewalk snow removal and it can only be enforced if there are complaints. City Engineer Peterson explained the city does

snow removal on priority sidewalks such as high traffic areas and sidewalks adjacent to schools. Mr. Peterson also stated we don't have enough staff or snow removal equipment to clear sidewalks for the entire city. The age and condition of some of the sidewalks also play a role in non-snow removal.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aaron Reeves
City Administrator