

Cloquet City Council Work Session

Tuesday, January 15, 2019

Present: W. Carlson, D. Koski, S. Lamb, K. Kolodge, S. Langley, L. Wilkinson, Mayor Maki

Absent: None

Staff: Reeves, Barlcay, Klassen, Peterson

Council Retreat

Mr. Reeves discussed the importance of having a Council retreat this spring, especially now with new Council members. A retreat would give an opportunity to lay out priorities with a more focused direction. The retreat will also include time with department heads. Council agreed to have the retreat facilitated by staff rather than an outside agency. Mr. Reeves will send out a short questionnaire to Councilors to help organize topics as well as a list of available dates.

Wilderness Agreement

Mr. Reeves reviewed the 3 arena agreements with the City; CAHA, ISD 94 and the Wilderness. All are on tonight's agenda for approval. He also summarized the responsibilities of each party involved. Discussion followed regarding payment amounts and schedules, sales tax dollars being used for larger arena maintenance, and operational items being funded by the City.

Public Works Director Peterson clarified that the City cannot take over arena operations because the City does not have adequate staffing to run programming. Any staff hired would result in charges to the associations to cover those costs. Programming now is run by the association volunteers who know what they are doing.

Discussion on large arena upgrades, such as locker room improvements, will be part of the capital improvement budget. Mr. Reeves explained that sales tax dollars may be used if it becomes available and that Council approval will be requested for arena projects.

Library Grant

Mr. Reeves gave the history of the library expansion project. The previous Council authorized the library to apply for a \$1 million library construction grant from the state which resulted in a \$784,000 award. If any other libraries turn down their grant award, we will have the opportunity to get those funds. Mr. Reeves is asking for direction from Council whether or not to move forward with the grant agreement. Moving forward will result in the City contributing approximately \$80,000 to the project. Discussion followed on other entities that use the library contributing funds to the project. Council agreed to move forward with the grant agreement.

Council Meeting Live Streaming

Mr. Reeves has been researching live streaming systems for Council and commission meetings to be installed when the new council chambers is constructed. He explained the system will automatically turn on and start streaming based on the dates/times we have entered into the system. Meetings will also automatically be archived on the City's website. Live steaming will allow for City transparency.

Other Discussion

Mr. Reeves stated he is going to resume the Cable Commission and will reach out to current members and other interested individuals to be appointed to the commission by Council. Discussion followed regarding current programming, opportunities available, and personnel.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aaron Reeves
City Administrator