

Council Chambers, Cloquet, Minnesota  
7:00 P.M. June 18, 2019

Regular Meeting

Roll Call

Councilors Present: Carlson, Koski, Kolodge, Lamb, Langley, Wilkinson, Mayor Maki

Councilors Absent: None

Pledge of Allegiance

### **AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Councilor Lamb moved and Councilor Kolodge seconded the motion to approve the amended June 18, 2019 agenda with the removal of item 8.a., *Police Department Vehicles Purchase* until the completion of the Police Department study, and the addition of item 8.c., *Ward 3 Special Election update*. The motion carried (5-2), Councilors Koski and Langley opposed.

### **MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Councilor Koski moved and Councilor Wilkinson seconded the motion to approve the Work Session minutes and Regular Meeting minutes of June 4, 2019 as presented. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Councilor Carlson moved and Councilor Wilkinson seconded the motion to adopt the Consent Agenda of June 18, 2019, approving the necessary motions and resolutions. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

- a. Resolution No. 19-50, A Resolution Authorizing the Payment of Bills
- b. Resolution No. 19-49, Approving Law Related to the City of Cloquet Local Option Sales Tax
- c. Resolution No. 19-51, Adopting and Confirming Special Assessments for Delinquent Utilities and Recertification for Tax Forfeited Land Sale
- d. Resolution No. 19-52, A Resolution Approving the Conditional Use Permit for Louie Bonneville for a Double Wide Mobile Home in the R2-One and Two Family Residence District
- e. Resolution No. 19-53, Approving the Solicitation of Bids for the Pine Valley Single Track Mountain Bike Trail Phase II Project
- f. Approval of Peddlers, Solicitors & Transient Merchants License – Generous Jerry’s Fireworks, Inc.
- g. Approval of New Taxicab License – SK Taxi

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

There were none.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

There were none.

### **JULY 2<sup>ND</sup> CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

The July 2, 2019 City Council meeting is cancelled due to the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday. The next meeting is scheduled for July 16, 2019.

### **WARD 3 SPECIAL ELECTION UPDATE**

City Administrator Reeves gave an update on the process of a Special Election for the Ward 3 Vacancy. The earliest an election can be held is November 5<sup>th</sup> with a 74 days’ notice to the County Auditor. If more than two candidates are running, the primary election will be held November 5<sup>th</sup> and the election on February 11, 2020. Council will interview interested candidates living in Ward 3 to fill the vacancy as an interim until the election can be held. Interviews will take place during the July 16<sup>th</sup> Work Session.

**CLOSED MEETING****PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATION OF ALLEGATIONS OR CHARGES AGAINST CITY OF CLOQUET COUNCIL MEMBER – S. LANGLEY**

Councilor Langley requested the meeting remain open.

**MOTION:** Councilor Lamb moved and Councilor Kolodge seconded the motion to approve **RESOLUTION NO. 19-54, A RESOLUTION ADDRESSING THE ALLEGATIONS OF MISCONDUCT AGAINST A CITY COUNCILOR.** The motion carried (5-0) Councilors Koski and Langley abstained.

**WHEREAS,** The City of Cloquet received a complaint summarizing allegations of misconduct made by former City Police Chief Wade Lamirande against City Council Member Steve Langley. An independent investigation into the allegations concluded that Councilor Langley engaged in certain conduct as a council member that constitutes misconduct on the part of a public official and contravenes City policy governing the conduct of City Council members.

**WHEREAS,** The City of Cloquet's City Code, City Council Handbook and City Council Values Statement apply to City Council members, and define the limits to the authority of individual City Council members, and require City Council members to conduct themselves in their official capacities in accordance with certain standards and values.

**WHEREAS,** The City of Cloquet City Council met on June 18, 2019 in open session pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.05, subd. 2(b) to preliminarily consider the above-referenced allegations, and now wishes to address the allegations therein that were substantiated by the independent investigation.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLOQUET, MINNESOTA THAT:**

1. The City Council hereby finds that Council Member Langley's conduct in (a) sending a mocking text message to a member of the public on December 31, 2018 in response to issues concerning the City, and (b) contacting that same individual's employer to criticize the individual after invoking his position as a City Council Member during the week of July 16, 2018, all as summarized in Investigator Soldo's Final Investigation Report, violates the City Council Values Statement [operate openly, honestly, ethically, and with integrity; encourage engagement and increased participation of the City Council and the community; treat all people fairly, equitably, and respectfully; encourage open and free communication; and respect difference of opinion], and is beyond the scope of office and authority of any individual City Councilor as defined in the Cloquet City Code and the Cloquet City Council Handbook.
2. The City Council disapproves of and hereby censures Councilor Langley for engaging in such conduct.
3. Council Member Langley is hereby directed to refrain from engaging in similar conduct in the future and to conduct himself in his official capacity in accordance with the Cloquet City Code, City Council Handbook, and City Council Values Statement at all times.
4. Council Member Langley, or any other elected official of the City of Cloquet who violates this Resolution by engaging in conduct that is inconsistent with the Cloquet City Code, City Council Handbook, or the City Council Values Statement or any provision contained in this Resolution shall be considered to have acted beyond the scope of his or her office and authority and be subject to an authoritative penalty or sanction to be determined by the City Council or as may be dictated by any policy of the City Council then in place, and further that the City disclaims any duty to defend or indemnify any such elected official who engages in any such unauthorized conduct and liability or responsibility for claims arising therefrom.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were none.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND UPDATES**

Councilor Kolodge thanked staff for the hard work while moving into the new City Hall/Police Department.

On a motion duly carried by a unanimous yea vote of all members present on roll call, the Council adjourned.

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Aaron Reeves, City Administrator