

Cloquet City Council Work Session

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Present: W. Carlson, S. Lamb, C. Swanson, S. Langley, L. Wilkinson, Mayor Maki

Absent: K. Kolodge

Staff: Barclay, Klassen, Hansen, Peterson, Randall, Sorenson

November 5th Council Meeting Date Change

Due to the Ward 3 Special Primary on November 5th, the regularly scheduled City Council meeting scheduled that same night will be rescheduled for November 7th. This will also allow for the canvas of election results to take place without calling for a special meeting.

Library Expansion Rebid Results

Tim Anderson from the Meyer group presented the results from the library expansion project rebid. There were 4 rebids with 2 contractors declining. The low bid came in from Boldt Construction. Mr. Anderson detailed the 13 deduct alternates for Council to review explaining that the deducts will not affect the operation of the library. Members of the Library Foundation reviewed the current floor plan without the deducts so Council could get a visual understanding of the explanations. Much discussion took place on the importance of keeping the redesigned circulation desk.

Other discussion included the sponsorship by local groups for furnishings, future grant possibilities, adding the deduct items at a later date and the effect of inflation on materials when delaying incorporating the deduct items.

2020 Preliminary Budget Discussion

Mr. Barclay, interim City Administrator reviewed the 2020 Preliminary Budget including the results of the library project rebid. With the library information provided, Council agreed to bond for \$1.5 million. Other items of discussion included not to add an addition Parks Department employee into the 2020 budget and to wait on any suggested police department changes based on the study until a City Administrator and Police Chief are in place. Mr. Barclay has not received information on what the health insurance increase will be.

Councilor Swanson commented that he's pleased with the numbers that came back for the library but is concerned about the levy considering the school district and county levies. While campaigning, residents have expressed frustration with property taxes. He would like to remain as conservative as possible. Councilor Lamb and Wilkinson agree with the concern for property tax increases.

Council agreed on 1.72% levy increase.

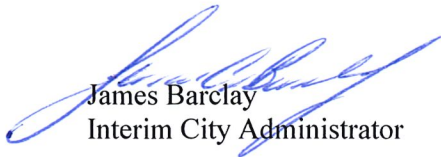
Public Comment Section of Agenda

Councilor Lamb previously proposed to move the "Public Comments" portion of the agenda to the beginning of the meeting before any decisions are made on agenda items. Staff provided information on the agenda order of other cities and found most do hold the public comment portion at the beginning. Mr. Barclay stated he has discussed this with the city attorney for validation and stressed it is important to remain a public comment period that must be enforced so it does not turn into an ad hoc public hearing.

Councilors discussed options for public comments and all agree to move it to the beginning of the meeting but to remain in control to avoid repetitive comments. Mr. Barclay will provide a sample agenda at the October 1st Council meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



James Barclay
Interim City Administrator