

Regular Meeting

Roll Call

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

Councilors Absent: None

Pledge of Allegiance

### **AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Councilor Lamb moved and Councilor Wilkinson seconded the motion to approve the November 17, 2020 agenda. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

### **MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Councilor Lamb moved and Councilor Swanson seconded the motion to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of October 20, 2020 as presented. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were none.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Councilor Carlson moved and Councilor Wilkinson seconded the motion to adopt the Consent Agenda of November 17, 2020, approving the necessary motions and resolutions. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

- a. Resolution No. 20-83, Authorizing the Payment of Bills
- b. Resolution No. 20-82 Authorizing the Payment of Bills and Payroll
- c. Resolution NO. 20-74, Adopting Amendments to the IRS Section 125 Cafeteria Plan Benefit
- d. City Hall Boilers
- e. Prospect Avenue Change Order No. 2
- f. Resolution No. 20-77, Approving Annual Sand and Excavating Pits
- g. Approval of New Massage Therapist License

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

There were none.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

- a. Mayor's Proclamation, Small Business Saturday

### **APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS POSITIONS**

**MOTION:** Councilor Kolodge moved and Councilor Swanson seconded the motion to approve the one year probationary appointments of Matt Peterson to the position of Heavy Equipment Operator and Daniel Hilsgen to the position of Truck Driver/Maintenance in the Public Works Department effective November 23, 2020. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

### **SALES TAX**

**MOTION** Councilor Carlson moved and Councilor Wilkinson seconded the motion to approve **RESOLUTION NO. 20-75, SUPPORTING THE AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE A LOCAL SALES AND USE TAX TO FUND SPECIFIC CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROVIDING REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE, TO ESTABLISH THE DURATION FOR THE TAX AND THE REVENUE TO BE RAISED BY THE TAX, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY TO ISSUE BONDS SUPPORTED BY THE SALES TAX REVENUE.** The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

**WHEREAS**, the City of Cloquet has engaged Council Members, staff, community residents and business to identify the following projects;

**Project 1:** Pine Valley Regional Park Project - Pine Valley, a city owned recreation area, is recognized both locally and regionally as a multipurpose outdoor recreation and sporting area. Located on a major corridor for north-south traffic between the Metro Area and Arrowhead Region, this regional park is easily accessed from Interstate Highway 35 and MN State Highway 33. Created in 1961, its 243 acres are heavily used for events and attractions that include: ski jumping, with 4 jumps from 5 meters to 45 meters; Nordic skiing with a 5.5 K competition quality skate and classic ski trail, and a 2.3 mile recreational skate and classic ski/snowshoe trail; mountain biking, with a 2.3 mile mountain bike trail to be extended to 5 miles; snowmobiling, with a 1.5 mile groomed snowmobile trail; not to mention running, hiking, picnicking, hosted events, and of course hockey (as mentioned in Project 2). The Pine Valleys Chalet compliments the area events in both winter and summer. Multiple organized sporting events call Pine Valley home, such as the City Ski Meet, the Pine Valley Invitational Nordic Combine, the Pine Valley 5.5K, 11K, and Lost Forester runs, the Rotary Color Run, the NMTC Pine Valley Trail Series Run, and the Easter Egg Hunt. Every Sunday during the winter season an average of 100 people ranging from 3-years to 70+ years old participate in the Pine Valley Nordic Ski Club's family outings, which include cross country skiing and ski jumping. Due to its unique soils, Pine Valley's trails are available in nearly all weather conditions - wet or dry. Its ski jump is one of only a few in the nation and the only one located in Northern Minnesota. The Cloquet Nordic Ski Club sponsors jumping and Nordic ski events all season, which brings in participants from as far away as Chicago. Recreational skiers come from around the area to ski. Estimated cost of ski jump repairs, chalet replacement, and parking and lighting improvements is \$2,124,700.

**Project 2:** Cloquet Ice Arena Restoration and Repair – In 2018 the City of Cloquet sponsored an “Ice Arena Study” to determine the long-term viability of this regional facility which was originally constructed in 1996. The study identified numerous repairs and upgrades needed to ensure continued “safe” use of this facility into the future. This regional facility is used 11 months of the year for hockey and skating, it is home to the Minnesota Wilderness hockey team, 1 of 20 North American Hockey League Tier II Junior teams. Playing 36 games per season averaging over 46,000 fans in attendance. In an economic impact study, conducted by the Labovitz School of Business and Economics at UMD, it was estimated that Carlton County sees \$2.4 million in additional spending in this community. The Wilderness organization is credited with the creation of 29 new jobs both directly and indirectly. Half, through operational spending in industries such as fitness and recreational sports and retail and the other half, resulting from visitor spending in industries related to leisure and hospitality, including hotels, restaurants, and bars.

The ice arena is also home to the Cloquet Area Hockey Association with over 300 families participating in youth hockey from our region and also hosts tournaments, on average of 20 weekends a year, with at least 46 teams traveling from outside the county to participate. Estimated cost of repair/upgrading the facilities is \$6,025,500.

**WHEREAS**, the aforementioned project will result in benefits to both the residents and businesses of the City of Cloquet and the visitors attracted from the region; and,

**WHEREAS**, the aforementioned projects are estimated to cost approximately \$8,150,200; and,

**WHEREAS**, the City estimate that a local sales tax of ½ percent would generate the monies needed to fund project costs in 10 years; and,

**WHEREAS**, Minn. Stat. 297A.99 authorizes the imposition of a general sales tax if permitted by special law of the Minnesota Legislature; and,

**WHEREAS**, Minn. Stat. 297A.99 requires the City to pass a resolution authorizing such a local tax and to obtain Legislative approval prior to approval by the local voters to enact the local tax;

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

1. The City Council supports the authority to impose a general local sales tax of ½ percent for an estimated period of 10 years to assist in funding the aforementioned projects;
2. Upon approval of this resolution, the City will submit the adopted resolution and documentation of regional significance to the chairs and ranking minority members of the House and Senate Taxes committees for approval and passage of a special law authorizing the tax, by January 31 of the year that is seeking the special law.
3. Upon Legislative approval and passage of the special law authorizing the tax, the City will adopt a resolution accepting the new law, which will be filed with a local approval certificate to the Office of the Secretary of State before the following Legislative session.

4. The City will put a detail ballot question(s), which includes separate questions for each project, on a general election ballot for local voter approval. This will be done within two years of receiving legislative authority.
5. If one or more ballot questions pass, the City will also pass an ordinance imposing the tax and notify the Commissioner of Revenue at least 90 days before the first day of the calendar quarter that the tax will be imposed.
6. Upon completion of the aforementioned requirements, the local sales tax will commence and run until December 31, 2032 or until sum sufficient to fund the voter approved projects, including related debt costs, is raised, whichever comes first.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the members of the City are authorized and directed to take any and all actions as may be necessary to effectuate this Resolution.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the undersigned, being all the members of the Council of the City, have executed this Resolution effective November 17, 2020.

**CERTIFICATION OF UTILITY BILLS AND MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES**

**MOTION:** Councilor Lamb moved and Councilor Carlson seconded the motion to approve **RESOLUTION NO. 20-80, ADOPTING AND CONFIRMING SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS FOR DELINQUENT UTILITIES**. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

**WHEREAS**, The amount to be assessed for delinquent utilities has been calculated in accordance with the provisions of City ordinances and Minnesota Statutes; and

**WHEREAS**, Notices have been duly mailed as required by law; and

**WHEREAS**, Said proposed assessments have at all times since their filing been open for public inspections, and an opportunity has been given to all interested parties to present objections, if any, to the proposed assessments; and

**WHEREAS**, There were no oral or written objections received.

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

1. The amounts so calculated and set forth in said notices are hereby levied against the respective parcels of land described therein; and
2. The proposed assessments are hereby adopted and confirmed as special assessments for each of said parcels of land and the assessments shall be a lien concurrent with general taxes upon said parcel.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the City Administrator be authorized and directed to transmit to the County Auditor a certified duplicate of the assessment roll to be extended upon the property tax lists of the County and the County Auditor shall collect said special assessments with taxes levied in 2020, payable in 2021.

**PINE VALLEY DONATION**

**MOTION:** Councilor Carlson moved and Councilor Kolodge seconded the motion to accept a \$225 donation from Brent Smith for the lift rental to change the Pine Valley trail lights. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

**JOHN DEERE WHEEL LOADER PURCHASE**

**MOTION:** Councilor Carson moved and Councilor Swanson seconded the authorization to order a 2021 John Deere 624l wheel loader from Mccoy Construction & Forestry in the amount not to exceed of \$200,000.00 with trade. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

**NORTHWOODS CREDIT UNION VARIANCE AND SITE PLAN**

**MOTION:** Councilor Lamb moved and Councilor Carlson seconded the motion to adopt **RESOLUTION NO. 20-78, APPROVING THE SITE PLAN FOR HTG ARCHITECTS/NORTHWOODS CREDIT UNION**. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

**WHEREAS**, HTG Architects/Northwoods Credit Union is proposing a Site Plan in the RC – Regional Commercial District for a 3,254 Sq. Ft. addition onto the existing Credit Union; and

**WHEREAS**, the property of the proposed Site Plan is located at 902 Stanley Avenue and is legally described as follows:

Lot 2, Block 1, Wal-Mart Third Addition, Carlton County, Minnesota.  
And,

**WHEREAS**, the Planning Commission reviewed the staff report and recommends approval of the Site Plan.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLOQUET, MINNESOTA**, that it approves Zoning Case 20-12 for a site plan for HTG Architects/Northwoods Credit Union for a 3,254 square foot addition onto the existing Credit Union subject to the following conditions:

1. Signage shall comply with the Ordinance requirements.
2. Approval from Walmart for the new access onto their property

### **CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR GCL DEVELOPMENT, LLC**

**MOTION:** Councilor Kolodge moved and Councilor Swanson seconded the motion to adopt **RESOLUTION NO. 20-79, APPROVING THE CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR GCL DEVELOPMENT LLC FOR APARTMENTS IN THE CITY CENTER DISTRICT**. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

**WHEREAS**, GCL Development LLC is proposing a Conditional Use Permit for eleven (11) apartments in the City Center District; and

**WHEREAS**, As required by ordinance, notification was advertised in the Pine Knot and property owners within 350 feet were sent notice. A public hearing was held to consider the application at the regular meeting of the Cloquet Planning Commission on November 10, 2020 at which time Zoning Case / Development Review No. 20-15 was heard and discussed; and

**WHEREAS**, the property of the proposed Conditional Use Permit is located 1403 Avenue C and is legally described as follows:

Lots 1, 2 and 3, Block 1, Northwest Paper Company Addition, Carlton County, Minnesota. and

**WHEREAS**, the Planning Commission reviewed the staff report and recommends approval of the Conditional Use Permit.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLOQUET, MINNESOTA**, that it approves Zoning Case 20-15 for GCL Development LLC for eleven (11) apartments in the City Center District subject to the following conditions:

1. A Building Permit be issued prior to beginning any work.
2. The three separate tax parcels must be consolidated into one parcel prior to the issuance of a building permit.

### **CITY ADMINISTRATOR EVALUATION PROCESS**

Assistant City Administrator Barclay will send Council members an evaluation to use as a guide for City Administrator Peterson's annual evaluation. It was agreed the evaluation should be conducted by current Council members during a closed session at the December 15<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting.

### **CITY HALL CLOSURE**

City Administrator Peterson recommended to close City Hall to the public once again due to the spike in COVID cases. Mr. Peterson explained that staff will be expected to work from home and will rotate coming into the office to ensure public needs are met. Public Works is considered essential and will continue working while maintaining social distancing by driving separately, etc. The library will go to curbside. The closure will take effect November 18<sup>th</sup> until further notice.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND UPDATES**

Councilor Swanson gave a reminder of the winter parking ordinance that is in effect through March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Councilor Lamb commented on the kindness of our neighbors who have stepped up to help others in need.

City Administrator Peterson stated the November 10<sup>th</sup> Press Conference regarding the local COVID-19 status is available to view on the city's website and CAT-7.

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

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Tim Peterson, City Administrator