

Via Teleconference
6:00 P.M. August 17, 2021

Regular Meeting

Roll Call

Councilors Present: Carlson, Swanson, Kolodge, Jaakola, Wilkinson, Mayor Maki

Councilors Absent: Lamb

Pledge of Allegiance

AGENDA

MOTION: Councilor Kolodge moved and Councilor Swanson seconded the motion to approve the August 17, 2021 agenda. The motion carried unanimously (6-0).

MINUTES

MOTION: Councilor Jaakola moved and Councilor Wilkinson seconded the motion to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of August 3, 2021, as presented. The motion carried unanimously (6-0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Councilor Swanson moved and Councilor Carlson seconded the motion to adopt the Consent Agenda of August 17, 2021, approving the necessary motions and resolutions. The motion carried unanimously (6-0).

- a. Resolution No. 21-37, Authorizing the Payment of Bills
- b. Approval of Application for Deferment of Special Assessment
- c. Resolution No. 21-40, Approving Final Layout for State Aid Project No. 009-603-038 on County State Aid Highway 3 (14th Street)
- d. Resolution No. 21-41, Approving Parking Restrictions on 14th Street from Tall Pine Lane to Washington Avenue and Washington Avenue to Prospect Avenue
- e. Approval of Off-Site Gambling Permit – Wood City Riders
- f. Approval of Exempt Permit to Conduct a Bingo and Raffle Event – Queen of Peace Parish
- g. Approval of New Massage Therapist License – N. Milewski

PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were none.

PRESENTATIONS

There were none.

APPOINTMENT OF POLICE OFFICER

MOTION: Councilor Wilkinson moved and Councilor Jaakola seconded the motion to approve the probationary appointment of Megan Conley to the position of Police Officer. The motion carried unanimously (6-0).

COOPERATIVE HOCKEY LEASE AGREEMENT

MOTION: Councilor Kolodge moved and Councilor Wilkinson seconded the motion to not approve the revised Cooperative Hockey Lease Agreement between the City of Cloquet and the Cloquet School District. The motion carried unanimously (6-0).

PLA AMENDMENT DISCUSSION

City Administrator Peterson reviewed the draft amendment of the Project Labor Agreement, stating the changes pertain to adding language allowing prevailing wage. Mr. Peterson explained that a union entity would follow the PLA as it currently is, a non-union party would follow the added language of prevailing wage.

Mayor Maki invited public comment at this time:

Lee Anderson, resident of Cloquet, provided Council with an opinion he wrote in the Duluth News Tribune regarding previous PLA discussions by City Council. Mr. Anderson's opinion is that a PLA or union is not needed to pay decent wages. He also stated that project prices are increased by 30% or more with a PLA, making projects inefficient. Mr. Anderson stated the best compromise is to have prevailing wage and leave unions out of this.

Derek Peterson, Local 1091 Business Agent and resident of Cloquet, commented that a PLA is good for Cloquet where many union members live. Mr. Peterson suggested Council consider having prevailing wage separate from the PLA and under the \$175,000 threshold. He would like to see continued discussion with the City and work together instead of disagreeing.

Dan Olson, Business Manager for Labor Local 1091, resident of Superior, stated he was disappointed the union wasn't part of the proposed amendment discussion. They are willing to discuss changes that could be incorporated into the PLA that would protect the city's investments and tax-payer dollars. He would like to see continue discussion with the building and trades to find an equitable solution and suggested the City of Cloquet should start by getting a prevailing wage ordinance.

Council comments:

Councilors Carlson, Swanson and Jaakola agree more discussion needs to take place on this.

Councilor Kolodge stated that because it's a city ordinance, he doesn't agree that the building and trades should be involved in the discussion.

Councilor Jaakola commented the unions should be involved with the PLA discussion, but not part of the ordinance amendment discussion, and possibly the prevailing wage discussion.

City Administrator Peterson clarified that prevailing wage language would be part of the actual document, not the ordinance. Aside from adding language for non-union contractors, no other changes were made to the agreement, but asked Council to review the amendments made and bring back any questions or concerns to the September 7th Council meeting.

MOTION: Councilor Swanson moved and Councilor Carlson seconded the motion to table the prevailing wage conversation until further clarification of how prevailing wage would effect taxpayers and union workers. The motion passed (4-2), Councilor Kolodge and Mayor Maki opposed.

COUNCIL COMMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

Administrator Peterson revisited the electronic agenda program approved by Council prior to Council meetings taking place virtually, stating it will be in place for the October 5, 2021 Council meeting.

Councilor Wilkinson commented that COVID vaccines are still readily available.

Chief Randall stated one vacancy remains on the Citizens Advisory Board.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Tim Peterson, City Administrator