

Cloquet City Council Work Session
Tuesday, February 20, 2018

Present: A. Bailey, D. Bjerkness, K. Kolodge, S. Langley, R. Maki, J. Rock, Mayor Hallback

Absent: None

Staff: J. Barclay, N. Klassen, H. Hansen, C. Peterson

Other: EDA Members R. Peterson, R. Smith, M. Schultz; J. Peterson, Pine Journal

Annual Joint Meeting with EDA

Ms. Hansen began with introductions and noted that the City Council and EDA try to meet on an annual basis to review the past year's activity and the goals for the coming year. Highlights of 2017 include several housing and commercial projects related to the Small Cities Development Program funding, completion of the Cloquet Business and Community Marketing Strategy and the 2017 Downtown Cloquet Revitalization Strategy, and local business promotion.

EDA Chairman Ross Peterson provided an overview of EDA goals for 2018. Goals include the promotion and development of maintenance of housing by implementing the 2014 Cloquet Housing Study and Taskforce recommendations; development of the Business Park; downtown revitalization; workforce development; retail/office development along south Hwy 33 and commercial development along north Hwy 33; business retention, expansion and attraction; and proactive economic and community development leadership support. Ms. Hansen noted that ADY Advantage will pursue businesses to come into Cloquet focusing on transportation distribution and the Agribusiness sectors.

General discussion on the shortage of housing in Cloquet. Mr. Schultz stated the number one complaint he hears from new Sappi employees is the lack of housing in Cloquet. Also discussed were options of mixed commercial use in the Industrial Park and the interest that FDL has in a treatment facility located in the business park.

With no further discussion or questions, the Council thanked the EDA for their time and energy in helping the City with its economic development efforts.

PLA Ordinance Update

Mr. Reeves briefly reviewed the proposed revisions to the City's Project Labor Agreement (PLA) clarifying that the PLA goes into effect when the City's investment reaches \$175,000, and not based on the total value of the project. Mr. Reeves noted he worked with Craig Olson of the Building and Trades Labor Union during the revision process. Council members agreed the \$175,000 may need to be revisited as projects come up.

The revised PLA and ordinance will be ready for March 6, 2018 Council approval.

Legislative Agreement

Mr. Reeves reviewed the proposal from Flaherty & Hood for legislative assistance in the revision of the City's Sales Tax Legislation. Assistance will be in the form of drafting the legislation, monitoring its process, and lobbying for its proposal. City staff will also participate in the lobbying effort.

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

Respectfully submitted,


Aaron Reeves
City Administrator