

CLOQUET CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Tuesday, June 19, 2018

Present: Bjerckness, Kolodge, Langley, Maki, Rock, Wyman, Mayor Hallback

Absent: None

Staff: Reeves, Klassen, Anderson, Cottingham, Hansen, Palmer, Peterson, Sorensen

Other: Library Board and Library Foundation; J. Peterson, Pine Journal; Paul Keenen, Roers

Joint Meeting with the Library

- Beth Sorensen, Library director, reviewed the 2014 space study and current library needs. Ms. Sorensen reviewed the services they provide and stated if meeting the community needs is to continue, more space for programs and a larger community room with flexibility is needed. The City Council and Board recommended moving forward with architectural plans in 2016.
- Kathy Rikkola, Library Board President, explained the Library Board continues to work on a strategic plan that incorporates the much-needed teen and children spaces and the meeting area.
- Terry Anderson, Foundation member, gave a brief history of the library and the funding and support they receive. Mr. Anderson gave a synopsis of improvements and money that has been spent over the years.
- Anne Lundquist, Assistant Library Director, reiterated the need for expanded teen and children spaces. Ms. Lundquist reviewed the activities that are available to young people at the library and sees the necessity of continuing with plans on this renovation.
- Pat Brandsteatter, President of the Friends of the Library, commented on the hard work and joint efforts with the community that are done to make extra money to support programs. Ms. Brandsteatter stated that the Friends of the Library also support the library expansion.
- Larry Anderson next explained how the concept piece meets the library expansion needs. Capital campaigning and fundraising will take place during the construction. Discussion of adding this into the 2019 CIP project list. Other funding options were also discussed.
- Ms. Sorensen stated the library membership has stayed consistent over the years and the technology needs are being met. She also commented that being part of the Arrowhead Library System is a large asset.

2017 Auditor Result Highlights

Finance Director Klassen gave a summary of the 2017 audit report. The full report is on the City's Finance webpage. The report is being submitted to the FROA for the financial reporting awards program for the 12th year. Financial highlights are as follows:

- Approximately \$2 million of the governmental activities net position will be used to purchase the MCCU building.
- Governmental Activities net position decreased due to the addition of the pension expense required to be booked on government wide. Business type activities were positive.
- Ms. Klassen next reviewed the various funds and gave explanations of their results. Ms. Klassen noted the new rates will be starting in July 2018.

- Other discussion included the 2017 Small Cities Development Projects and PERA pension investments.

Cloquet Middle School Apartment Project Update

- Mr. Cottingham provided background on the Middle School apartment project. Paul Keenan of Roers Investments was present to give a review of project updates, upcoming requests, and to discuss any comments or questions.
- Mr. Keenan explained the proposed plan is to turn the Middle School into 57 units of apartments and 10,000 sq. ft. of office space, keeping the gym and auditorium but demolishing the pool to increase parking spaces. The current cafeteria will be leased by the school district as office space. Construction to tentatively begin the fall of 2018 with completion fall of 2019.
- There will be a community open house in July for questions and feedback from the community.

July 3rd Council Meeting

Council agreed to cancel the July 3rd Council meeting due to the July 4th holiday. The next meeting will be the regularly scheduled meeting of July 17th.

West end Project change Order

Caleb Peterson, City Engineer, reviewed the background of 3 properties on Arch Street and Avenue D that have a crumbling retaining wall and staircases that access the street from the front of the homes. Staff previously met with the property owners to discuss the deteriorating wall and options of fixing it during the Arch Street construction project. A tentative agreement was met to repair the alley behind the homes and make that as their primary access, and repair the wall and remove the steps in the front at the same time. The residents have now changed their minds and would like the wall repaired and steps to remain in place. Mr. Peterson estimates it will be approximately \$50k to bring the staircases back, requiring a change order on the Arch Street reconstruction project that is currently in progress. Mr. Peterson asked for Council feedback. After discussion, the consensus is to replace the steps and repair the wall. Once the quote is received, Mr. Peterson will come back to Council. If the quote is too high, other options will need to be researched.

Other Discussion

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Aaron Reeves
City Administrator