

Cloquet City Hall Council Chambers
6:00 P.M. July 18, 2023

Roll Call

Councilors Present: Carlson, Lamb, Keller, Kolodge, Jaakola, Wilkinson, Mayor Maki

Councilors Absent: None

Pledge of Allegiance

AGENDA

MOTION: Councilor Lamb moved and Councilor Jaakola seconded the motion to approve the July 18, 2023 agenda. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

MINUTES

MOTION: Councilor Wilkinson moved and Councilor Carlson seconded the motion to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of June 20, 2023 as presented. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Joseph Mayasich, 504 Linda Lane, addressed Council regarding the status of communication with the group home at 1101 Jean Marie Street regarding the parking situation. City Administrator Peterson said he spoke to the owner of the group home who has directed staff to park in the driveway and is planning to add additional parking in the driveway. Another neighbor of the group home spoke of the impact that staff parking on the street has on him.

Ryan Bridge, 202 Vine Street, addressed Council regarding the recent car enthusiasts gathering outside his shop on Friday nights. City staff and the police department are trying to collaborate with him to find other options to hold his car meet which can accommodate the large crowd and drifting demonstrations. It is not legal or safe for the current location on Vine Street for this type of event. The goal is to work together to make it acceptable to the city and safe for everyone.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Councilor Lamb moved and Councilor Keller seconded the motion to adopt the Consent Agenda of July 18, 2023, approving the necessary motions and resolutions. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

- a. Resolution No. 23-33, Authorizing the Payment of Bills and Payroll
- b. Approve Memorandum of Agreement for Building Inspection Services with FDL
- c. Resolution No. 23-34, Approving Application for Exempt Permit to Conduct a Raffle Event at Queen of Peace Parish
- d. Approve Queen of Peace Road Closure Request
- e. Approve Labor Day Celebration Request

PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were none.

PRESENTATIONS

Representative Jeff Dotseth was present to give an update of the most current Legislative Session and to communicate with cities on the challenges being faced and the results of the latest session. After a brief review of the Legislative Session, Dotseth asked for Council feedback, questions or concerns.

Councilor Lamb commented on the challenges and burdens of increasing property taxes due to the CAFD, deteriorating road conditions and housing.

Councilor Kolodge inquired how the lack of funding for road deterioration in northern Minnesota due to harsh winters is being addressed.

Councilor Wilkinson asked what Dotseth's priorities are. His response is that infrastructure is his number one priority.

Administrator Peterson commented that the Duty Disability Bill is a big win for cities, allowing cities to offset the cost of mental health care for six-months after diagnosis which helps to take the burden off taxpayers. Dotseth said they are hoping to negotiate additional funding to carry-over to continue that program.

PARKS COMMISSION UPDATE

Sara Buhs represented the Parks Commission and gave an update on the commission's activities. Highlighted items included an additional pickle ball court at Churchill; the brush and tree destruction in Pine Valley from winter storms and how the bike and ski clubs volunteered their time to move debris so the trails could be used; the upcoming Community Education contract renewal; current communication between the school district and city for the use of Hilltop during football season due to the construction of the new high school football field; and the upcoming new Churchill playground construction. Ms. Buhs also noted that two commissioners' terms will be expiring this year.

SALE OF VACANT SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL LOT AT 333 20TH STREET

MOTION: Councilor Kolodge moved and Councilor Jaakola seconded the motion to approve **RESOLUTION NO. 23-35, A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SALE OF A VACANT SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL LOT AT 333 20TH STREET FROM THE CITY OF CLOQUET TO BOSS BUILDERS LLC FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF HOUSING.** The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

WHEREAS, Carlton County Minnesota, as the local governmental entity in charge of tax forfeit parcels acting on behalf of the State of Minnesota, previously conveyed the real property described below to the City of Cloquet, which property had become duly forfeited to the State of Minnesota to be held in trust in favor of the taxing districts for the nonpayment of taxes or otherwise; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of said conveyance was for the City of Cloquet to sell this parcel for \$1,000 to a local contractor for a housing project which did not come to fruition, and the City has since reacquired the property; and

WHEREAS, the real property is located at 333 20th Street, Cloquet, Carlton County, Minnesota, and is legally described as follows:

Lot 1, Block 1, Carlsons Addition and the south one-half of adjoining vacated Eastern Avenue according to the plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the County Recorder, Carlton County, Minnesota; (PIN 06-025-0020);

WHEREAS, the Cloquet Economic Development Authority (EDA) held a Special Meeting on July 11, 2023 and received three different development proposals from Boss Builders LLC for 333 20th Street, and the Cloquet EDA recommends the Council sell the lot to Boss Builders LLC for the purpose of housing redevelopment for either twin home or single-family home redevelopment for-sale units;

WHEREAS, the conveyance of a residential property for residential use has no effect on the comprehensive plan and does not require planning commission review.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLOQUET, MINNESOTA, that the City of Cloquet approves the sale of the property described above for \$1,000 plus costs to Boss Builders LLC. The property may not be resold by Boss Builders LLC until an approved residential structure has been constructed on the property, which construction must be substantially completed within two years or the City reserves the right to repurchase the property for its costs of sale herein.

APPROVE TANDEM DUMP TRUCK AND PLOW EQUIPMENT PURCHASE

MOTION: Councilor Carlson moved and Councilor Lamb seconded the motion to authorize the order of an International tandem dump truck from Mid-State Truck Service of Duluth in the amount of \$129,535.79 including trade, and the purchase of a dump box and plow package from Townmaster Equipment in the amount of \$183,810.00. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

COUNCIL COMMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND UPDATES

Administrator Peterson stated the budget process started this week and to contact him with any requests.

Councilor Kolodge inquired when the sales tax project discussions will begin. Peterson stated hiring a contractor to help with the RFP process for the actual ice plant will start in this fall/winter.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Tim Peterson, City Administrator