

Cloquet City Council Work Session

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

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

Absent: None

Staff: J. Barclay, N. Klassen, C. Peterson, J. Anderson, L. Peterson, T. Johnson, R. Biebl

Other: J. Lund, Pine Journal

Public Works Update

Caleb Peterson, Public Works Director, was present to give the Council an update on the Public Works department's activities. Mr. Peterson highlighted 2016 accomplishments and projects slated for 2017. Mr. Peterson explained the responsibilities of the different divisions within Public Works and highlighted some of the recent projects as follows:

General

- 2016 engineering projects completed included Skyline Blvd landscaping, Slate Street Sidewalk, 3rd Street reconstruction, Holmes Drive mill and overlay, South Hwy 33 and Carl Street reclaim, and a utility extension study. 2017 projects include overlay projects, CIPP sewer lining and the Pine Valley Bike Trail.
- Mr. Peterson stated they are researching a pavement management plan which involves looking at the roads throughout the city and establishing the level of maintenance and a plan to maintain and what to forecast. More information will be presented to the Council once the information is collected.
- Mr. Peterson gave kudos to his the utilities crew in regards to the extensive Lake Superior Waterline repair in 2016.
- Mr. Peterson also noted the updated Snow and Ice Removal Policy which changed the snow plowing start time change to 3 am in the event of a major snowfall. Discussion of the new equipment on the plow trucks eliminating one person in the trucks therefore freeing them to do other snow removal such as sidewalks.
- A change in the 2016 budget included a dedicated maintenance allocation for street patching.
- The goal for 2017 is to complete all street sweeping and utility patches by mid-June.
- The City has been included in the Emerald Ash Borer quarantine. Staff will be attending training to understand the impact of the quarantine and learn how this will affect services the City offers.

Streets

- Overview of the Street revision included Les discussing the Cloquet Avenue streetscape as well as Pinehurst Park summer maintenance. It was requested that weeding and flower basket maintenance time is tracked.
- Ditch mowing along Highway 33 and rural ditches is out for bids now. MnDOT has a new maintenance supervisor which could make a difference in how much mowing they will do.

Lake Superior Waterline

- Mr. Peterson next gave an overview of the utilities department. Discussion followed of the Knowlton Creek leak repair in 2016 and how much responsibility Sappi should have in the repair cost. Ms. Klassen works with Sappi on the rates for the upcoming year which will help cover the repair costs.
- Also discussed was the Station 2 surge and cooling water coordination, motor #1 repairs and station 1 and 2 electrical upgrades.

Sewer/Water

- Sewer Department highlights include the new televised system which identified and repaired 6 mainline failures.
- Frequency of sewer cleaning is now on a 3 year cycle which cut the amount of afterhours sewer calls by 66%.

- Discussion on the well exploration/ manganese issue. The health advisory board put out warning on the levels of manganese. When the study is complete, it will guide us on which route to go down. Councilor Kolodge inquired if there is an issue, would FDL be open to a new well within the reservation? Mr. Fritsinger feels it's a reason that FDL would support.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm. The Council reconvened at 7:45 p.m.

Discussion took place regarding assessments of the South Highway 33 and Carl Street project. The Council is supportive of withholding assessments at this time due to the uniqueness of the project. Future projects will be based on an amended assessment policy after the pavement management plan is completed. Staff was directed to look at amendments to the Code to support this position.

Broadway/Dunlap Island project conversation took place. The estimated project is \$4.6 million, allocated funds are \$4.2 million. Mr. Peterson asked for direction from Council on what could potentially be eliminated from the plans. Council suggested eliminating the adult play equipment, explore options of downsizing shelters or eliminating one of them, options for portable toilet enclosure, possibly eliminating the fire pits, and doing the work on the east side of the highway as an alternate project. Bidding is estimated to take place in April.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

James Barclay
Interim City Administrator