

Cloquet City Council Work Session

Tuesday, June 6, 2017

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

Absent: None

Staff: J. Barclay, H. Hansen, A. Cottingham, C. Peterson, J. Anderson

Other: Brian Larson, MnDOT, J. Lund, Pine Journal, B. Atkins

MnDOT Safety Improvements

- Brian Larson of MnDot was present to give a briefing on the project at the intersection of Highway 33/I-35. The 2005-2015 crash history shows this section is above the critical rate in crashes. The main issue seems to be the left hand turn from the Frontage Road.
- Mr. Larson reviewed the six safety concepts and their impacts. The recommendation is to construct a round-about.
- Discussion of round-about and problems they can sometimes create. Mr. Larson stated the roundabout will slow traffic and maintain access to the different legs of that intersection and accommodate semi traffic. He also noted that the environmental impacts are minor.
- Councilor Rock questioned the slope coming up to the round-about from I-35 and if that will be an issue. Mr. Larson answered this will not be an issue. Grades, speeds, etc. can be addressed during the design portion of the project.
- The first step of the project is to hold a public meeting and then it will go out for bids in November 2017.

Crematories

- At the request of Council from the May 16th Work Session, Mr. Cottingham presented more information regarding crematories and emissions. After searching the Department of Health in several states for emissions information, Georgia Department of Health was the only information found, and it was with very minimal statistics. Mr. Cottingham also noted the state licensure for a crematory is very vague.
- Cloquet's current zoning only allows crematories in the heavy industrial districts. The Planning Commission has discussed amending the zoning ordinance to allow into light industry and residential. The Council would like to hold a public hearing on the issue before making any decisions.
- Mr. Cottingham noted that the Atkins Funeral Home could request to rezone their district to neighborhood/commercial, but this may cause an issue in the future if they close their business. Council does not agree to a text amendment without a public hearing with the neighbors if Mr. Atkins decides to pursue the zoning change.

Temporary Signs

- Staff is looking for Council feedback on the increasing number of temporary signs around town for non-profit organizations, garage sales, restaurants and sporting event. Signs are being placed on the Pinehurst Park fence, the Hwy 33/Cloquet Avenue corner, which is a MnDOT right of way, and various locations around town where there's a large amount of traffic.
- There is no formal policy for temporary signs but non-profit organizations have been allowed to place their banners on the fence at Pinehurst.
- Garage sale signs are prohibited. Council agrees that the Police Department and Public Works will continue to remove the signs unless on private property with permission given by the owner. Community events and non-profit signs and banners are appropriate for the Pinehurst Park fence. The MnDOT right of way is strictly prohibited (Cloquet Avenue and Hwy 33 corner).

Future Work Session

- Let Mr. Barclay know of any items for future Work Session agendas.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James Barclay
Interim City Administrator