

**Cloquet City Council Work Session**  
Wednesday, July 5, 2017

**Present:** A. Bailey, D. Bjerckness, K. Kolodge, R. Maki, J. Rock, Mayor Hallback

**Absent:** S. Langley

**Staff:** J. Barclay, H. Hansen, C. Peterson, J. Anderson

**Other:** J. Peterson, Pine Journal

**Downtown Revitalization Discussion**

- City Engineer Caleb Peterson and Assistant City Engineer John Anderson gave an overview of the Cloquet Avenue Revitalization project slated for 2018. They are asking for feedback from the Council as to what they would like to see as the outcome before.
- Discussion of the number of items to be considered with this project. Items include the poor pavement condition, ADA required pedestrian ramps (60 ramps), possible traffic signal upgrades (3 signals), landscape features including trees, pocket parks, concrete pavers, and street lighting.
- The current CIP has a budget of \$2,000,000 for this project which is sales tax funds. Mr. Peterson stated that there are certain infrastructure needs that should be completed with this project such as the ADA compliance, utility and concrete repairs. Other upgrades such as signal EVP, LED, paint and loop controller should possibly be done at this same time.
- The upgrade in streetscapes has not been discussed previously.
- The prior reconstruction in 1996 had an extensive public involvement process related to plan development. How much public input does the Council want at this point? Council agreed that the proposals should be put together from input already gathered and then open it up for public comment.
- Mr. Peterson questioned the Council on what level of infrastructure, repair and replacement/upgraded is desired? The vision was for pavement repair but we are at the point where an investment needs to be made going from overlay to replacement.
- Discussion on the lack of pedestrian accommodations along Cloquet Avenue. Conversation was had in regards to bump-outs and parking.
- What level of streetscape repair and upgrades is desired? These would include replacing missing trees, updating lighting to match Broadway Street, bump outs, etc.
- Councilor Bjerckness commented on the number of trees that were previously planted and did not survive. Mr. Peterson replied that the planting process has improved since that time and that it is not a fair expectation that there will be mature trees in this area. There are other visual elements that can be used.
- Much discussion on lighting upgrades. The current lighting is an economy level of lights and there is inconsistency in the style of lighting throughout the corridor and Broadway Street. To have the same lighting along the entire corridor would be approximately \$1 million. Funding sources were discussed.
- The Council discussed the issue with semi-trucks going to Sappi via 18<sup>th</sup> Street residential area and the abuse on the pavement. Mr. Peterson recommends focusing on the mill and overlaying investment on the downtown corridor.

- The revitalization of downtown ties into the EDA as one of their top goals.

**Other Discussion Items**

- Mr. Barclay has received the Teamsters Local 346 contract opening notification. Councilor Bjerkness has agreed to represent the Council if negotiation meetings can be arranged for evenings. The Council agrees that he has the most history and experience with negotiations.
- July 17<sup>th</sup> will be the in-house City Administrator interviews.
- Reminder of the tentative 5:00 start time for the July 18<sup>th</sup> Work Session for the meet and greet with the FDL Business Council.

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

Respectfully submitted,

James Barclay  
Interim City Administrator