

## Cloquet City Council Work Session

Tuesday, September 19, 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, H. Hansen, J. Palmer

**Other:** J. Peterson, Pine Journal, B. Larson, MnDOT

### **MnDOT follow UP on Roundabout Discussion**

- Brian Larson was present to discuss the status of the proposed Highway 33/I-35 roundabout project. Mr. Larson stated that a roundabout is the best solution to eliminate T-bone crashes, right angle crashes, as well as effectively move traffic through the intersection by reducing speed. Mr. Larson showed a simulation of the intersection with a roundabout showing peak traffic on Sunday afternoon of a holiday weekend when there is heavy traffic going south.
- The design includes warning signs indicating a roundabout and reduced speed ahead. Discussion of types of warning signs and the placement of them making them most efficient.
- Councilors expressed concern over the speed of vehicles when coming from the bridge onto the roundabout during slippery conditions. Mr. Larson replied that a chip seal will be added to the surface for added traction.
- Discussion of the slope that goes into the wetlands and what can be done to prevent a vehicle from going down it. Options include a recoverable slope that gives the motorist the ability to get back onto the bridge, a guard rail or a cable median barrier. MnDOT recommends a recoverable slope.
- Mr. Larson indicated the designs are complete and have been sent to St. Paul for final approval. Bids are expected to go out in December with construction starting in May of 2018. The project is expected to be completed in September of 2018.
- Budget for the project is estimated at \$2.1 million and is 100% funded by federal dollars.

### **PD Shift Duration Discussion**

- Interim Chief Palmer addressed the Council regarding switching the current 11.5-hour shift schedule back to 12-hour shifts. Mr. Palmer explained that the current schedule sometimes leaves the department short officers for 30 minutes during the busiest time of the day because of the staggered start times. Mr. Palmer also stated the shift change has caused low morale within the department.
- Several opinions were voiced during the discussion regarding the pros and cons of 11.5 hour shifts versus the 12 hour shifts. Issues include sick time abuse, the amount of banked time off, and the benefits of giving extra time off to the officers.
- Former Police Chief Lamirande explained the issues he experienced with shift schedules. Mr. Lamirande stated the importance of officers' time off for vacations and with family to avoid burn-out. He also expressed concern that this discussion is taking place before a new Police Chief is in place.

- Councilors agreed police department sick time leave for 2017 needs to be reviewed at a future Work Session before any decisions are made. It was also agreed this discussion needs to take place once the new City Administrator starts and a new Police Chief has been hired.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

James Barclay  
Interim City Administrator