

## Cloquet City Council Work Session

Tuesday, October 17, 2017

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

**Absent:** None

**Staff:** J. Barclay, A. Cottingham, H. Hansen, N. Klassen; C. Peterson

**Other:** J. Peterson, Pine Journal; M. Schultz, Sappi; B. Helwig, City Attorney

### **Sappi Log Storage Discussion**

- Mike Schultz of Sappi was present to discuss their proposal of winter wood storage in the former nursery location on Cloquet Avenue. Wood would be received between the months of December through March. Mr. Schultz stated that local storage of wood leads to lowering wood cost and will bring more investment to the Cloquet plant. The plan is to create a new road into the mill off 18<sup>th</sup> Street and making it a permanent wood yard. Discussion took place on the impacts on traffic this will create with trucks backing up on Avenue B or Cloquet Avenue waiting to be unloaded. Mr. Schultz commented impacts will be minor. Hours of delivery will remain 6:00 am to 6:00 pm but can be changed if there are neighborhood concerns.
- Mr. Cottingham has discussed leaving the hedge that surrounds the nursery to maintain a barrier.

### **PLA Discussion**

- Follow up from the July 18, 2017 Work Session when the Council requested Mr. Helwig to ask for the Attorney General's legal opinion regarding the application of the PLA Ordinance to privately funded projects that also receive financial assistance from the City. The response from the Attorney General states that the opinion is based on a 20- year old decision and cites cases from other states having similar PLAs, however, did not give a clear opinion based on these cases. Mr. Helwig's opinion remains that the PLA ordinance recently passed by the Council is over-reaching when applied to privately funded projects.
- Mr. Reeves suggested waiting for the end of construction season for staff to reach out to contractors for feedback on the impacts of the PLA on their projects. Council agreed to wait for the feedback and will revisit in 6-8 weeks to discuss any possible amendments to the ordinance resulting from the information. Mr. Reeves agreed with the suggestion that was made to contact Duluth about any changes they may be making to their PLA.

### **Police Chief Hiring Discussion**

- Mr. Reeves reviewed the 3 options for moving forward in the Police Chief hiring process. Several Council members' opinions were voiced and a lengthy discussion took place.
- Mayor Hallback stated he will motion to amend the regular meeting agenda by adding the appointment of Interim Chief Palmer to Police Chief. Mr. Reeves commented to the Council that if the motion passes, as Administrator, it is his responsibility to assure the success of Mr. Palmer as Chief.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aaron Reeves  
City Administrator