

## CLOQUET CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Tuesday, January 19, 2016

**Present:** Bjerckness, Kolodge, Maki, Wilkinson, Mayor Hallback

**Absent:** Langley, Rock

**Staff:** Fritsinger, Klassen, Cottingham, Butcher

**Other:** Jamie Lund, Pine Journal, Planning Commission members: Jesse Berglund, Kelly Johnson, John Sanders, Bryan Bosto, Uriah Wilkinson

### **Joint Meeting with Planning Commission**

Introductions were made by everyone in attendance. Mr. Fritsinger stated that the Council and Commission meet annually to discuss issues and activities of mutual interest.

City Planner Cottingham explained the Commission has been working on updating the Zoning Ordinance and is looking for Council input early in the process. The Commission has already reviewed the current Ordinance and has a redline version ready for the Public Hearing on February 9<sup>th</sup> with a tentative adoption by the Council in March or April. There are several areas that have been identified as needing updating, those areas are as follows: certifying of zoning compliance and sign permits are not needed within the zoning ordinance so they are being eliminated; conditional use permit section updated; parking requirements changed and simplified; suburban/residential districts currently states no new plats or re-plats in existing suburban residential districts subject to tax rates being changed, and specific language not creating new suburban developments; and R1 districts must have both sewer and water, not one or the other. Discussion highlights are as follows:

- Mr. Bjerckness stated the concern of having the language of no new developments. This could prevent new developers from looking at Cloquet. Mr. Cottingham answered that the ordinance can be changed if that occurs.
- Discussion of funeral homes in residential districts. Handevitd is looking for more of a commercial location with Kwik Trip purchasing their property.
- A common request heard by Council is in regards to dog parks and community gardens. Mr. Fritsinger stated that different types of parks fit into different neighborhoods and zoning. Mr. Fritsinger asked if the Commission is suggesting a process that calls for the Parks Commission to bring major park plan concepts to the Planning Commission before they are brought to the Council? There are some significant changes, haven't thought of bringing them before the Planning Commission. If so, now is time with the schematic layouts. Mr. Cottingham said it depends on zoning district, this is something to pay attention to. Discussion followed on which parks are zoned as residential and which are commercial. The Commission will take on the project of identifying the zoning for each City park in 2016.
- Another zoning issue is medical marijuana distribution sites. Mr. Fritsinger questioned if this has been a topic of discussion with the Commission. Per Mr. Cottingham, yes this has been discussed with the Commission and the Chief of Police. Cloquet could be one of the distribution centers. Zoning is the same as a drug store until there is a challenge in the court of law. This will be monitored going into the future.

- Mr. Cottingham stated there are no substantial changes with the zoning ordinance with the Hwy 33 corridor improvements. The commission has requested the official map to contain a parallel route with Big Lake Road to help eliminate some intersection issues. Mr. Fritsinger followed by saying an official map provides rationale for long term planning and a method to allow decisions to be made with planning.
- Another item worth exploring is the moratorium on business signage. Currently, if you own a business, you are not allowed to have signage off your property unless grandfathered in. The issue is the existing business can remain on the current billboards. How is a new business going to advertise without being able to use those corridor billboards? Worth looking at.
- Mr. Bjerkness asked what regulates where sexual offenders can locate in a community? Mr. Fritsinger answered that it is a state law that is similar to rules applying to group homes. This is handled by the state. Staff can research more on this and bring back to Commission.
- Discussion of community gardens and the possibility of using vacant lots as gardens. Mr. Cottingham said this has been talked in the past but nothing has come from it. His experience has been that gardens were provided as a community service but the City didn't make any money.
- Mr. Kolodge stated the concerns of large vehicle on-street parking. This is current police department issue. The frequent complaint of noise is also an issue.
- Mr. Bjerkness stated it would be helpful to have a Councilor as a liaison on the Planning Committee to ensure everyone is on the same page. Mr. Cottingham suggested if there's a concerning item on an upcoming Planning Commission agenda, a Council member should attend.

### **City Council Pay**

Per the request of Council, Mr. Fritsinger provided more information comparing Councilor/Mayor salary. In his research, he didn't find another community who tied salary into a percentage increase every year. Council agreed to discontinue the conversation when the research demonstrates Cloquet's Council and Mayor are being paid fairly. It was recommended that if salaries were to be changed in the future, to tie those changes into the amount of time a Councilor spends at various meetings representing the City.

### **Other Discussion**

CAHA – Mick Maslowski will attend a future Work Session to walk through the intent and history of the Agreement with the City.

City Administrator's Performance Evaluation – This will be a closed meeting. Each Council member has been provided a summary of the evaluation.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Fritsinger  
City Administrator