

CLOQUET CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

August 16, 2016

Present: Bjerkness, Kolodge, Langley, Maki, Wilkinson, Mayor Hallback

Absent: J. Rock

Staff Present: Fritsinger, Barclay, Klassen, C. Peterson

Other: Jamie Lund, Pine journal

CAFD

Mr. Fritsinger and Council members discussed the correspondence received from the CAFD questioning the City's support of the Fire district. Council members agree a joint meeting to clarify the intent of the letter sent by the City would be beneficial. Mr. Fritsinger will contact Chief Schroeder to schedule a meeting after an upcoming Council meeting. The Council remains supportive of the CAFD.

Budget / Sales Tax

Mr. Fritsinger summarized and clarified the identified sales tax projects and the changes that have been made.

- The Parks Commission met and requested that the Pine Valley bike trail project move from 2018 to 2017. This request fits the master plan projects but needs Council consideration.
- Discussion on the Pinehurst Park warming house. Council agreed to try the pool bath house as the warming house to see if it will work or if it's even needed. A skating rink attendant will be needed to put mats down.

Mr. Fritsinger moved on to other sales tax items that need discussion and clarity.

- The Riverfront north dollar amount of \$150,000 is only a component of the master plan. This reflects only a small portion of the larger proposed master plan project.
- Mr. Fritsinger noted the 2018 dollar amount slated for the Pine Valley facility is only one part of the needed improvements.
- Still needing discussion on Cloquet Avenue improvements.
- The Council discussed the City's responsibility, if any, for the school baseball field. Mr. Scarbrough has reached out to Mr. Fritsinger regarding the issues involved with relocation.
- The Council talked about the parks that need maintenance vs new park projects in 2017. Mr. Fritsinger noted that now is the time to talk about Athletic Park. This will require conversation with the school district. Mr. Fritsinger feels there is money available to accomplish improvements to Athletic. Conversation on what can be done to improve the appearance. Council questioned what were the arguments for relocating the baseball field to Braun? Mr. Peterson explained the only relocation cost of the ball field to the City is the irrigation on all fields.
- Mr. Fritsinger stressed the only items that need attention now are the 2017 projects. No other comments/concerns were voiced regarding sales tax projects.

Other Budget Discussion

Discussion highlights are as follows:

- Health insurance costs for the City will be increasing substantially in 2017. The Insurance Committee will be meeting on August 22nd to discuss options, if any.
- As per previous agreement by the Council, a retreat every 2 years is budgeted.
- Clean up day has been deleted from the budget.
- More discussion is needed on National Night out and how to incorporate into the future.
- Administration and HR will be split to show the various components of HR.
- Website upgrade is needed and budgeted.
- The Planning and Zoning budget is cut by approximately \$50-60k because there isn't much activity.
- Rental license fees will begin in 2018.
- The Council agreed it's a good idea to bid City Attorney/Prosecution services in the future. This has never been done.
- Sanitary sewer fund will be its own line item in the budget.
- The PD is proposing a new liaison position with the school district for 2017. Also is looking to beef up the National Night Out. The Council would like to have Chief Stracek give updates on the activities of the PD more frequently.
- Highways/Streets don't have many changes. New line items added for Christmas decorations and for community events.
- The Library is looking at a part time position moving to full time in 2017.
- A small increase for the Parks budget anticipating changes. An additional summer seasonal staff person has been added.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Fritsinger
City Administrator