

**Work Session
December 6, 2016**

Present: D. Bjerkness, K. Kolodge, S. Langley, R. Maki, J. Rock, L. Wilkinson, Mayor Hallback

Absent: None.

Staff: J. Barclay, N. Klassen

Other: F. Yetka; J. Lund, Pine Journal; A. Bailey

Special Assessment Policy Interest Rate Legal Review

- Mr. Fritsinger reviewed previous discussion on the Assessment Policy and the recommendation for the 2016 assessment rate. Council had discussed rates being more in line with current rates, not the historic 8%, and possibly looking at past interest rates and changing retrospectively. The rate for 2016 assessments was adjusted to reflect the current bond rate plus 2%, which reduced rates from 8-4% for the current assessments. Mr. Yetka's legal review concerning adjusting outstanding prior assessments and based on statute findings, strongly advises not to change past interest rates. The current policy amendments the Council adopted aligns with other cities in the state and was a good move to adopt a floating rate policy. The City Council reached consensus that with this legal opinion, no further discussion on the topic was necessary.

City Council Goals Update

- Mr. Fritsinger provided the status of the various goals from the 2015 retreat. The discussion tonight is to make sure Council and staff are on the same page. A number of the projects needed to be amended due to scheduling and priority changes. Items ongoing were highlighted.
- Discussion on LGA and budget/CIP. Mr. Fritsinger suggested tweaking this goal and the strategy to match ongoing efforts and changes in LGA.
- Budget monitoring with department heads is continuing and is critical component to the success of this particular goal. This is more of an internal process than a Council driven process and it is important to continue.
- Economic Development goals are ongoing. Challenge currently is the other agencies that are a part of the success of the goal. No changes recommended at this time.
- Hwy 33 corridor activities related to business growth has been on hold due to the DNR pulling out of the contract. The business park plan is still tied to the marketing plan and is an important goal that needs to be maintained. Discussion of EDA goals not going anywhere. The EDA does a similar type of exercise to identify goals each December. 2017 goals identified are the same as 2016 but priorities have changed, the downtown project is moving up.
- 2017 retreat will be tentatively scheduled for April. Discussion on options for facilitators and the possibility of having mini retreats in preparation for the retreat. The Council preferred to start with a mini session with Mr. Fritsinger facilitating but concern was expressed about the amount of work and time that goes into preparing for mini sessions if he were to facilitate. Mr. Fritsinger will come up with a plan from the information shared and will bring it back to Council for feedback.

Future Work Session Items

- In addition to department heads giving updates, it was suggested that WLSSD come in and give a presentation. Another suggestion is to have the chamber give an annual update.
- Discussion on the Home for the Holidays success. Feedback on Christmas Lights on Dunlap have been positive.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Fritsinger
City Administrator