

CLOQUET CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Tuesday, January 6, 2015, 6:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

Present: Bjerkness, Kolodge, Langley, Maki, Rock, Wilkinson, and Mayor Hallback.
Absent: None.
Staff: Fritsinger, Klassen, Butcher, and Stracek.
Other: Dani Lundeen and Jana Peterson - Pine Journal.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT OVERVIEW

The Council began with introductions for all of the newly elected members. Mr. Fritsinger noted that one of the items that previous members newly elected to Council had identified as a challenge was getting acquainted with the City, its procedures and processes. As a result, he was looking to spend this hour just providing an overview of the Council meeting process and then a couple of the items that are on the annual meeting agenda.

The Council was encouraged to consider its participation in the LMC elected and experienced elected official training. Mr. Fritsinger then discussed the LMC and the role they play with city operations and that they are a resource for the Council. They have a great deal of information available on their website for Council to investigate if they have questions on certain items.

Mr. Fritsinger then reviewed the work session meeting format, the process for identifying agenda items for the meetings and other procedural aspects of the meetings. There are opportunities at both the work session and at the end of the regular meeting for Council to raise any topics that they may wish the Council to consider for future discussion. Councilor Bjerkness asked that we look at spending a bit more time at work sessions talking about future agenda items to allow for better discussion and exploration of the topics.

Mr. Fritsinger noted that the City Council has previously formalized a communication process that addresses any issues involving the media. Within the police department, Chief Stracek has responsibility for communicating with the media and will inform the City Administrator, Mayor and City Council of the critical issues, but have the lead responsibility for meeting with the media. In terms of other City issues, the Mayor and City Administrator have the lead responsibility. Due to the legal nature of certain items, the Council is asked to defer to them or the City Attorney for any interface with the media.

The Council then discussed the role of the Acting Mayor position and candidates for this position in 2015. The Council spent a great deal of time reviewing the various Commission appointments and Council liaison appointments to various organizations. The Council reached consensus on some of these items to be considered for formal action at the regular meeting but requested more time to think about the City's representation on the Cloquet Area Fire District Board. A representative will also be needed for a soon to be recommended Riverfront Park Design Task Force and potentially a Committee to explore consolidation with the City of Scanlon.

Finally some discussion about the Spring Retreat was held. The group identified its conflicts and indicated that it could not meet in March and that staff should explore optional dates with our facilitator in April or May.

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

Respectfully Submitted:

Brian Fritsinger
City Administrator