

Council Chambers, Cloquet, Minnesota
7:00 o'clock P.M. March 3, 2015

Regular Meeting.

Roll Call.

Councilors Present: Bjerkness, Kolodge, Langley, Maki, Rock, Wilkinson, and
Mayor Hallback.

Councilors Absent: None.

AGENDA

MOTION: Councilor Bjerkness moved and Councilor Maki seconded the motion to approve the March 3, 2015 agenda. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

MINUTES

MOTION: Councilor Wilkinson moved and Councilor Maki seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the work session and regular meeting of February 17, 2015. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Councilor Kolodge moved and Councilor Rock seconded the motion to adopt the consent agenda of March 3, 2015 approving the necessary motions and resolutions. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

- a. Resolution No. 15-16, Authorizing the Payment of Bills and Payroll.
- b. New Tobacco and Tobacco Products Licenses for TA Operating LLC.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

22nd Street / Selmser Avenue Assessments

Mayor Hallback announced that now is the time and place for the public hearing on the proposed assessments for the 2014 utility and street reconstruction project for 22nd Street from Prospect Avenue to Carlton Avenue and also the improvement of Selmser Avenue from 20th Street to 22nd Street. City Engineer Prusak reviewed the cost of the project and the proposed assessments. City Administrator Fritsinger read into the record the formal written objection of Corey LeBrasseur, 321 22nd Street. Mr. Fritsinger also noted the City has received an application to defer assessments from Delores Calverly, 429 22nd Street. The City Council had a number of questions regarding the proposed assessments and answered a number of questions from Mr. LeBrasseur. Councilor Rock requested additional information on comparable corner lot assessments. With no further comments from the public, the hearing was closed.

MOTION: Councilor Rock moved and Councilor Langley seconded the motion to adopt **RESOLUTION NO. 15-18, RESOLUTION ADOPTING ASSESSMENTS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF 22ND STREET FROM PROSPECT AVENUE TO CARLTON AVENUE AND ALSO THE IMPROVEMENT OF SELMSER AVENUE FROM 20TH STREET TO 22ND STREET** removing the proposed assessments for Corey LeBrasseur, 321 22nd Street, and Delores Calverly, 429 22nd Street, from the assessment roll for reconsideration at the March 17, 2015 City Council meeting. The motion carried (5-2) with Councilors Kolodge and Maki opposed.

WHEREAS, In 2014, the City Council received an engineering study to reconstruct 22nd Street from Prospect Avenue to Carlton Avenue and also Selmser Avenue from 20th Street to 22nd Street, including the replacement of existing sanitary sewer and water mains; and

WHEREAS, The Cloquet City Council on March 18, 2014, held a hearing to consider the improvement of these sections of 22nd Street and Selmser Avenue; and

WHEREAS, Said improvement was subsequently ordered and completed and the City has prepared a proposed assessment roll, which is available in the office of the City Administrator for public inspection; and

WHEREAS, Due notice was given that said special assessments would be considered by the City Council at its meeting to be held on March 3, 2015, and at said meeting and time all parties interested would be given an opportunity to be heard; and

WHEREAS, The City Council has met and heard and passed upon all objections to the proposed assessment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLOQUET, MINNESOTA:

1. Such assessment, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof, is hereby accepted and shall constitute the special assessment against the lands named therein, and each tract of land therein is hereby found to be benefitted by the improvement in the amount of the assessment levied against it.
2. Said assessments shall be payable in equal annual installments extending over a period of ten (10) years and shall bear interest at a rate of eight percent (8%) per annum from April 3, 2015. Property owners may prepay the entire assessment, or any portion of it, to the City of Cloquet without interest prior to April 3, 2015. Any principal not paid by November 30th of each year, will be certified along with accrued interest to the Carlton County Auditor for collection with the Real Estate Taxes payable over the period stated above.

White Pine Trail and Trettel Lane Assessments

Mayor Hallback announced that now is the time and place for the public hearing on the proposed assessments for the 2014 bituminous pavement construction project for White Pine Trail from Spring Lake Road to Trettel Lane and Trettel Lane from White Pine Trail to Airport Road. City Engineer Prusak reviewed the cost of the project and the proposed assessments. Written objection was received by Annette and Richard Kiehn, 1014 Pinewood Drive. Francis Morris, 1560 White Pine Trail, addressed the Council with questions on the shoulder work, road striping, and speed limit signs. Mr. Prusak responded that public works will be completing the shoulder work this spring and that further investigation into the striping and speed will take place. Keith Bassett, 1531 White Pine Trail, had concerns regarding a birdbath that has developed in front of his home. Mr. Prusak will meet with him to review. With no further comments from the public, the hearing was closed.

MOTION: Councilor Bjerkness moved and Councilor Wilkinson seconded the motion to remove the proposed assessment for the parcel objected by Annette and Richard Kiehn for additional investigation and review at the March 17, 2015 Council meeting and the adoption of **RESOLUTION NO. 15-19, ADOPTING ASSESSMENTS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF WHITE PINE TRAIL FROM SPRING LAKE ROAD TO TRETTEL LANE AND ALSO TRETTEL LANE FROM WHITE PINE TRAIL TO AIRPORT ROAD.** The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

WHEREAS, In 2014, the City Council received an engineering study to improve and install bituminous pavement on White Pine Trail from Spring Lake Road to Trettel Lane and also Trettel Lane from White Pine Trail to Airport Road; and

WHEREAS, The Cloquet City Council on April 15, 2014, held a hearing to consider the improvement of these sections of White Pine Trail and Trettel Lane; and

WHEREAS, Said improvement was subsequently ordered and completed and the City has prepared a proposed assessment roll, which is available in the office of the City Administrator for public inspection; and

WHEREAS, Due notice was given that said special assessments would be considered by the City Council at its meeting to be held on March 3, 2015, and at said meeting and time all parties interested would be given an opportunity to be heard; and

WHEREAS, The City Council has met and heard and passed upon all objections to the proposed assessment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLOQUET, MINNESOTA:

1. Such assessment, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof, is hereby accepted and shall constitute the special assessment against the lands named therein, and each tract of land therein is hereby found to be benefitted by the improvement in the amount of the assessment levied against it.
2. Said assessments shall be payable in equal annual installments extending over a period of ten (10) years and shall bear interest at a rate of eight percent (8%) per annum from April 3, 2015. Property owners may prepay the entire assessment, or any portion of it, to the City of Cloquet without interest prior to April 3, 2015. Any principal not paid by November 30th of each year, will be certified along with accrued interest to the Carlton County Auditor for collection with the Real Estate Taxes payable over the period stated above.

PRESENTATIONS

There were none.

SUPPORTING DEDICATED STATE FUNDING FOR CITY STREETS

MOTION: Councilor Bjerkness moved and Councilor Kolodge seconded the motion to adopt **RESOLUTION NO. 15-17, A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING DEDICATED STATE FUNDING FOR CITY STREETS**. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

WHEREAS, Minnesota contains over 141,000 miles of roadway, and over 19,000 miles—or 13 percent—are owned and maintained by Minnesota’s 852 cities; and

WHEREAS, over 80 percent of municipal streets are ineligible for dedicated Highway User Tax Distribution Fund dollars; and

WHEREAS, the more than 700 Minnesota cities with populations below 5,000 are ineligible for dedicated Highway User Tax Distribution Fund dollars; and

WHEREAS, city streets are a separate but integral piece of the network of roads supporting movement of people and goods; and

WHEREAS, existing funding mechanisms, such as Municipal State Aid (MSA), property taxes and special assessments, have limited applications, leaving cities under-equipped to address growing needs; and

WHEREAS, city cost participation in state and county highway projects diverts resources from city-owned streets; and

WHEREAS, maintenance costs increase as road systems age, and no city—large or small—is spending enough on roadway capital improvements to maintain a 50-year lifecycle; and

WHEREAS, for every one dollar spent on maintenance, a road authority—and therefore taxpayers—save seven dollars in repairs; and

WHEREAS, cities need greater resources, including an additional dedicated state funding source for transportation, and flexible policies in order to meet growing demands for street improvements and maintenance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLOQUET, that the City of Cloquet supports an omnibus transportation funding bill that provides additional dedicated state funding for city streets including funding that can be used for non-MSA city street maintenance, construction and reconstruction.

SETTING PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR PROPOSED 8TH STREET IMPROVEMENT

MOTION: Councilor Bjerkness moved and Councilor Rock seconded the motion to adopt **RESOLUTION NO. 15-20, RESOLUTION SETTING PUBLIC HEARING DATE ON THE PROPOSED 2015 IMPROVEMENT OF 8TH STREET FROM A POINT 450 FEET NORTH OF WASHINGTON AVENUE TO SAHLMAN AVENUE AND ALSO SAHLMAN AVENUE FROM 7TH STREET TO 9TH STREET.** The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

WHEREAS, In accordance with the City of Cloquet's Capital Improvement Program and approved budget, preliminary plans and an engineering study are being prepared for the improvement of 8th Street from a point 450 feet north of Washington Avenue to Sahlman Avenue and also Sahlman Avenue from 7th Street to 9th Street; and

WHEREAS, As part of this project the City proposes to reconstruct the existing roadways, sanitary sewer and water mains and install a new storm sewer system and sidewalks; and

WHEREAS, A detailed report is being prepared by the Assistant City Engineer with reference to this proposed improvement; and

WHEREAS, It is anticipated that benefitted properties will be assessed for a portion of the project costs, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 429.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLOQUET, MINNESOTA:

1. That the Council will consider the reconstruction of 8th Street from a point 450 feet north of Washington Avenue to Sahlman Avenue and also Sahlman Avenue from 7th Street to 9th Street and the assessment of abutting properties for a portion of the cost, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 429. The total improvement is estimated to cost \$924,000.
2. A hearing shall be held on April 7, 2015, in the City Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m.
3. The City Administrator shall give mailed and published notice of such hearing and improvement as required by law.

SETTING PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR PROPOSED SUNSET DRIVE IMPROVEMENT

MOTION: Councilor Bjerkness moved and Councilor Wilkinson seconded the motion to adopt **RESOLUTION NO. 15-21, RESOLUTION SETTING PUBLIC HEARING DATE ON THE PROPOSED EXTENSION OF SANITARY SEWER AND WATER SERVICE ON SUNSET DRIVE FROM THE CLOQUET NORTH ROAD, NORTH APPROXIMATELY 500 FEET.** The motion carried (6-0) with Councilor Kolodge abstaining.

WHEREAS, A new residential home is currently being constructed on Sunset Drive just north of the Cloquet North Road, and whereas existing public sanitary sewer and water service is currently available along North Road within 400 feet of the property being developed; and

WHEREAS, Section 11.4.04, Subdivision 1 of the City Code requires that all newly developed property and constructed buildings shall be connected to a public sewer, provided that such public sewer is located within four hundred feet of such property; and

WHEREAS, Other property owners in the immediate area have expressed interest in seeing public utilities extended along Sunset Drive; and

WHEREAS, The City Engineer has determined that an extension of public utilities along Sunset Drive is feasible and in the best interest of all parties involved.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLOQUET, MINNESOTA:

1. That the Council will consider the extension of public sanitary sewer and water service on Sunset Drive from the Cloquet North Road, north approximately 500 feet and the assessment of abutting properties, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 429. The total improvement is estimated to cost \$65,000.
2. A hearing shall be held on April 7, 2015, in the City Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m.
3. The City Administrator shall give mailed and published notice of such hearing and improvement as required by law.

EVENT COORDINATOR POSITION

City Administrator Fritsinger requested Council direction regarding the City Council's intent to seek event coordinator services. The City Council reached consensus that the City Administrator should proceed with the process by meeting with the Chamber of Commerce to determine if a collaborative approach can be utilized. Staff was asked to bring back a final recommendation including the detail of such working relationship prior to proceeding.

ASSISTANT CITY ADMINISTRATOR POSITION

MOTION: Councilor Maki moved and Councilor Wilkinson seconded the motion to allow staff to begin the hiring process for the Assistant City Administrator position. The motion carried (6-1) with Councilor Rock opposed.

CLOSED MEETING

The City Council closed the regular meeting to consider labor negotiations under Minnesota Statute 13.D.03 regarding the AFSCME labor contract and Teamster labor contract negotiations.

The regular meeting was reopened.

AFSCME LABOR AGREEMENT

MOTION: Councilor Bjerkness moved and Councilor Langley seconded the motion to approve the three year labor agreement between AFSCME and the City. The motion carried unanimously (6-0) with Councilor Kolodge abstaining.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

COUNCIL COMMENTS/UPDATES

There were none.

On motion duly carried by a unanimous ye a vote of all members present on roll call, the Council adjourned.

Brian Fritsinger, City Administrator