

CLOQUET CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Tuesday, March 3, 2015, 4:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Present: Bjerkness, Kolodge, Langley, Maki, Rock, Wilkinson and Mayor Hallback.
Absent: None.
Staff: Fritsinger, Klassen, C. Peterson, Lukkarila, Butcher and Stracek.
Other: Bruce Schwartzman (BKV) and Dani Lundeen (Pine Journal).

DRAFT FINAL PUBLIC FACILITIES STUDY

Mr. Fritsinger began by providing a brief history and background of the facilities study noting that the Council had prioritized this project in 2012. It was kicked off by building tours of all city facilities by the City Council which led to the development of an RFP in 2014 and the eventual hiring of BKV in 2014. The City has been working with the consulting firm for about one year on the study. The study is to include an evaluation of all facilities for energy, maintenance, safety, physical condition, future space needs and options for combined uses.

Bruce Schwartzman provided the Council a copy of a summary of the findings to date. He noted that there is still some additional work to be completed over the next few weeks but the study is nearing completion. He provided an overview of the facility assessment/maintenance needs of each facility. He then provided an overview of the Master Plan options for each facility along with estimated project costs for each facility.

He discussed his recommendations for priority of improvements. Due to the challenges with the timing of issues with the Cloquet Area Fire District, he is recommending that the priorities were as follows: Public Works, Police, City Hall, Library and Senior Center.

The Council discussed what limitations or restrictions the current buildings have that can be used to defend the City's needs with the public. Mr. Schwartzman inquired as to the City Council's preference for BKV assisting with a public meeting to present the study's findings. The Council did not clarify its preference as to the approach it would like to use.

Concerned about ADA obligations, the Council inquired about the need for elevators at City Hall and Police facilities. BKV will do further research to determine the requirement. Mr. Schwartzman indicated that in most cases the City will also need to look at temporary work sites for staff as it would be recommended to relocate staff during the renovations. Those costs have not been built into any of the estimates at this point.

Councilor Kolodge suggested that BKV look at taking the option of a new building and laying it out as an addition to the existing police station footprint. This would assume that the oldest portion of the building would be demolished to accommodate it and the newer section remodeled. This would allow the design to better address the "front door" appearance with access by the public off Cloquet Avenue. It also eliminates the wasted space of the apparatus floor. It was also suggested that the Minnesota Energy building be looked at as another site relocation option.

Mr. Fritsinger and Mr. Schwartzman will continue to refine the final study and look for a more formal presentation in the near future.

FUTURE AGENDAS

There was no discussion on future agenda items.

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

Respectfully Submitted:

Brian Fritsinger
City Administrator