

CLOQUET CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Tuesday, June 2, 2015, 5:30 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

Present: Bjerkness, Kolodge, Langley, Maki, Wilkinson and Mayor Hallback arriving at 5:45
Absent: Rock
Staff: Fritsinger, Lukkarila, Prusak and Klassen
Other: John Frederickson and Jon Herdegen - BLASD; Frank Yetka, Dani Lundeen - Pine Journal

BIG LAKE AREA SANITARY SEWER DISTRICT EXTENSION PROJECT

Mr. Fritsinger began by providing a quick overview of the direction provided to staff at its May 19, 2015 meeting. He then reviewed the resulting discussions with BLASD.

John Frederickson, BLASD representative, provided a handout that summarized a variety of talking points and then proceeded to review those points with the Council. He reviewed the history of the project and efforts to obtain funding to help cover the costs of the project. He thanked the Council for their support of the project and noted that BLASD had not necessarily considered the human/political side of the project in terms of how the improvements may impact property owners that were not expected to be connecting to the new system.

As a result, BLASD asked MSA to further investigate the concept of a direct connection to the WLSSD interceptor located near USG. While there are still some challenges with rights-of-way acquisition, this route appears to be a more cost effective and feasible approach to the new line. Jon Herdegen then reviewed the preferred routing option in more detail. They are proposing to directionally bore a force main down Balsam Street. By boring the line they do not need to tear up the street and keep disruption to the neighborhood to a minimum. This is an option only due the fact that no city utilities exist in this street.

BLASD is attempting to get things in place so that it can meet with the USDA this month to continue discussions on federal funding for the project. Mr. Herdegen then reviewed the funding partners and the need to meet with the USDA early in its review process to be as competitive as possible for available monies.

The City Council had numerous questions regarding the project, route, financing, timing and other items. The Council noted its appreciation for BLASD's attendance at a meeting to help everyone understand the situation and indicated that it would further consider the route by adding the item to the regular agenda later in the evening.

2016 BUDGET AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Mr. Fritsinger began by reviewing the budget process that is normally used by the City. He noted that the budget process usually starts in May with internal work on issues that might impact the City, and then lead to the first cut of draft budgets being presented to the Department Heads for their review and use as they develop their proposed budget.

The City continues to use a 4 year budget and over the past few years has seen the budget become more focused on the service commitments of the Council as identified as part of its goals and strategies from its goal setting process.

After the draft budget is reviewed, the focus shifts to the development of the 5 year Capital Improvement Plan. This process will typically take a few months and in most years is refined until the final budget adoption in December. The State has made some changes with the preliminary approval not needed until September 30th and the final due in December. The Council had questions and agreed that as part of the ongoing budget development process, if special meetings are required, it is willing to hold such meetings.

OTHER/FUTURE AGENDAS

No discussion for future agenda items.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00.

Respectfully Submitted:

Brian Fritsinger
City Administrator