

## **CLOQUET CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION**

Tuesday, July 21, 2015, 5:30 p.m.

### **Meeting Minutes**

Present: Bjerkness, Kolodge, Langley, Maki, Rock, Wilkinson

Absent: Mayor Hallback

Staff: Fritsinger, Butcher, Klassen, C. Peterson, Prusek, St. Arnold

Other: Andy Hubley and Meghan Levitt-Complete Streets, Cindy Haglin-FOA, Pine Journal

#### **COMPLETE STREETS / ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION /HIA PRESENTATION**

- Megan Levitt from Carlton County and Andy Hubley from ARDC gave a Power Point presentation reviewing what Complete Streets Projects may consist of for Cloquet, also explaining how local information is gathered and put into a plan for Cloquet. Al Cottingham will email the Power Point presentation to Council for further review.
- Complete Streets Policy Review considers all modes of transportation when doing a street project.
- Regional examples of Complete Streets include Tower, Grand Rapids, Grand Marais, and London Road in Duluth.
- Different funding sources for the project with BC/BS being a major source. There is an Advisory Committee to help guide the process.
- There is a map available on the condition of Cloquet's sidewalks on the ARDC Website. Mr. Hubley will provide the link to that information. He noted the City's sidewalks are in better condition than people perceive them to be.
- Update on the St. Louis River Trail – funding has been secured to extend the Hwy 45 trail. The committee will be tweaking the plan and then bring to the public for further input.
- The temporary bump outs and sharrows along Cloquet Avenue will be used to collect data for future projects. The next phase of the project will take place in August with bike lanes and bump outs on Doddridge Avenue. \$174,126 has been brought in by these projects.
- Discussion of older communities making sacrifices, i.e., parking, to gain sidewalks. Ms. Levitt stressed each project needs to be looked at independently.
- Does the policy offer flexibility? It guides.
- The Council needs to discuss where it goes from this point.
- From staff side, revisiting the discussion because of the 8<sup>th</sup> street project issues. Everyone needs to be on the same page. The policy is a movement in Minnesota that deserves to be looked at.
- A letter recently received from a Cloquet resident regarding the conditions of the sidewalks was passed out.

#### **FRIENDS OF ANIMALS FUNDING REQUEST**

- Follow up visit by Ms. Haglin inquiring about the one time donation request made to the Council in March.

- Review of their current budget which shows a reserve left for 3 months, income has increased by \$78,000 and expenses decreased by approximately \$11,000. However, they still have a \$5,000 deficit.
- They have received a couple of grants this year but have been told they most likely will not receive them again.
- The condition of building is deteriorating, forcing them to looking at moving or rebuilding in the near future.
- Question was raised regarding serving the entire county with not all communities supporting FOA. Ms. Haglin explained the dollar amounts listed by other municipalities are based on how many animals they take in. Cloquet pays \$31,000 for their contract with the shelter.
- Discussion of the possibility of the City waiving the monthly water bill. Concern over the precedent that could set for other non-profit organizations. The City historically stays away from donations to non-profits. The Council requested information on the impact to the shelter if the City waives the monthly water bill.

#### **OTHER/FUTURE AGENDAS**

There was no discussion on future agenda items.

#### **2016 DRAFT CIP**

- Revisited sales tax legislation and the projects it can be used for. Sales tax can be used for street as long as it is included in the comprehensive plan.
- Reviewed the 2016 CIP projects. Most studies completed but still need utility extension study, sidewalk plan, and building presentation. Public Works still working on 2017 through 2019 projects and overlays.
- Capital equipment for 2016 through 2019 was reviewed. Brian noted that the Public Works department scaled back on some purchases so money is freed up for other budget items.
- Reviewed options for bonding. One option is using sales tax bond vs general obligation bond so sales tax pays for the bond interest. Therefore, the City could collect more sales tax and reduce need to levy for the interest portion of bonds.
- Discussed building study being presented August 4<sup>th</sup>. Comments on not doing building projects and only fixing what we have as an option. It was also noted that CAFD might not be ready to leave the current police/fire building by 2017 as was expected. The Library might obtain State funding for construction so it could leap to front of building projects even though it is near the end of priority of needs.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00.

Respectfully Submitted:

Brian Fritsinger  
City Administrator