

CLOQUET CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Tuesday, August 18, 2015, 5:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

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

Absent: Langley

Staff: Fritsinger, C. Peterson, Lukarilla, Stracek

Other: Jamie Lund, Pine Journal, Bradley Peterson, CGMC

CGMC ANNUAL UPDATE

Bradley Peterson of CGMC gave a brief update on legislative events. CGMC's priorities included the following:

- Highest priority was bringing the LGA back to its 2002 level. However, an increase failed due to the Legislature's failure to pass a tax bill.
- Bold economic development focusing on work force housing.
- Broadband infrastructure grant program - CGMC was instrumental in jumpstarting the infrastructure funding program.
- Job training program – Focusing exclusively on Greater MN to provide resources to employers to help in employee specialized trainings.
- Environmental issues – Passed law requiring state to perform a cost impact analysis of all new proposed water quality regulations.

Council asked what the coalition can do to help cities rebuild roads? His view is that compromise is feasible through a fuel bill and general fund sources. He is skeptical there will be much done on transportation the next session.

How effective is it for Councilors to contact our Legislator? It can be effective depending on who the Legislator is. The City would receive an action alert if the coalition feels it is important to contact the Legislator. Trying to communicate through City Hall is more effective.

How important is it for cities to be represented with the coalition? There is value in talking with other elected officials from other communities.

Strategic Plan Review

As requested, the Council wanted to review the plan once more. Mr. Fritsinger reviewed each priority and action to ensure everyone is in agreement. Discussion items were as follows:

- Council questioned the intent of Priority 1-D and if it needs to be identified as an action/process. Consensus is to reword as a value statement, not process or task.
- Priority 2B – No work done yet, completion dates need to be changed.
2D – Not clear on what was to be accomplished. Council in agreement to delete.
- Priority 3B – More of understanding by everyone on how we use LGA. Wait a year to complete this action. This specific component will not be complete this budget.

3C - Start towards the end of 2016, this is more of a 2017 exercise. Focusing on amending the ongoing budget monitoring and reporting to council, an understanding of the budget and how it works.

- Priority 4A – Question mark on this action. Internal Council or engagement of public? This needs careful thought and feedback on how to target this item. Comments on overlap of this process and what EDA is working on. This is written as developing a process. Council suggested adding another 6 months to completion date. Council agreed on June completion date. Look at EDA and how it may interface with.

4B – Needs to be revised based upon previous discussion.

- Priority 5B - Refocus on discussion to make sure all is on right path. Dates will fit a normal building project. Dates need to be identified.

C – Public Works first priority. Dates need to be identified.

- 6A - Tried to align with EDA. Dates are still on track with what Holly is trying to do, plan development in 2016.

6B – Ongoing exercise, dates still meet with expectations.

6C – New business development, split into south Hwy 33 and North, Cloquet business park. EDA has had discussion over the summer. The dates still correlate with what they've been talking about.

Mr. Fritsinger asked the Council if they are comfortable adopting and accepting priorities at tonight's Regular Meeting, or discuss more and adopt/accept at the next meeting? Council agreed to adopt at tonight's meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m. The Council reconvened the meeting at 7:50 p.m. to continue discussion on the 2016 budget.

2016 Preliminary Budget

Mr. Fritsinger began by providing an update on changes being proposed to the City sales tax projects. He noted that Hilltop Park is being split into two projects with the play structure being added to 2016. A major change in the sales tax is building in the Highway 33 landscaping and trail projects which have not previously been included. He reviewed the proposed schedule of those projects.

The Council inquired if lighting or lighting in general was included in these estimates. Staff indicated they were not and the City Engineer was still in the process of identifying the lighting options and costs for future discussion. Mr. Fritsinger noted that SEH will be presenting the landscape plan to the Council at an upcoming work session the Council will need to carefully consider the costs of such improvements. The City Council reminded staff that it needs to be cognizant of increased operating and maintenance costs associated with such improvements. The Council will be looking to staff to clearly identify any budget impacts before improvements are implemented.

Mr. Fritsinger noted that the City is working with MNDOT on the Highway 33 Frontage Road and believes that grant monies are available. This project has been added in 2019 and the overall commercial development project pushed out to 2021. The Council asked that improvements at CARC be relabeled and discussion ensued regarding the long term ice plant improvements. The Council also inquired as to the status of the skate park location and total project cost.

Mr. Fritsinger then reviewed the 2016 CIP as well as the 2016-2020 plan. He noted the changes in street overlays being considered and that engineering is still working on identifying the related projects. Mr. Peterson explained the changes in the City's sidewalk replacement program. The Council had no additional suggested changes to the CIP.

Mr. Fritsinger then referred to the second roll up of the proposed 2016 budget. He noted there has been little change outside of the impact of capital improvements. The Council, at the last work session, had not suggested any significant change to the budget for those questions raised by staff, so no other changes made. The Council briefly discussed its support for the Events Coordinator position and concerns related to donations to Friends of Animals.

Mr. Fritsinger moved to a quick overview of the proposed facility improvements. He noted the current recommendation is implementing the police facility in 2018 and Public Works in 2021. He is still working with BKV on deciphering the short term maintenance needs and will need to incorporate that into the budget as well. The Council asked a few questions regarding the CAFD building plans but offered no suggested changes to the schedule.

Mr. Fritsinger reminded the Council that he and Ms. Klassen are currently suggesting a \$4.5-4.8 million sales tax bond in 2017 and a \$9.5 million G.O. Bond in 2021. The police facility would be funded through monies in the City's Public Facilities Fund and internal fund borrowing. The Council had several questions including the pros/cons to bonding earlier while interest rates are low.

Having no other questions or comments, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Brian Fritsinger
City Administrator