

**CLOQUET CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION**  
**Tuesday, September 1, 2015, 5:30 p.m.**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Present: Bjerkness, Wilkinson, Langley, Lukkarila, Kolodge

Absent: Rock, Maki

Staff: Fritsinger, Klassen, Lukarilla

Other: Jamie Lund, Pine Journal

**Final Review of 2016-2020 Draft CIP Budget and 3<sup>rd</sup> Run Up of Budget**

Mr. Fritsinger reviewed the final Draft CIP budget.

- 2016 – 2018: City Engineer Prusak and Assistant City Engineer Peterson were asked to rework the projects looking at broader work in neighborhoods rather than bits and pieces through the city. Projects will be staggered until 2021 so state aid monies can be used.

The City Engineers were challenged to find streets that overlaying can be used as repair for 15-20 more years. They have targeted streets that are quickly deteriorating and those will be seal coated, which will save money for the reconstruct projects. The City is relying on state aid for the reconstruct projects.

- 2017: Sanitary sewer lining was added to the project list. This is a non levy project. Mr. Fritsinger and Ms. Klassen are consistently looking at sewer rates. This lining project will eliminate reconstruct, unless there are major issues.
- 2018: The MSA overlay reconstruct was missing. Looking at the Lumberjack Mall frontage road project which entails realigning directly to the Armory.
- Also included in 2018 is \$200,000 for overlay on state aid streets, which would be streets off of Cloquet Avenue.
- 2019: State aid year. More overlay vs. reconstruct projects, including a variety of other projects.
- Question asked about flipping projects due to street deterioration. There are some property owner issues coming into play with moving projects around.
- Does the state have jurisdiction over any frontage roads? All have been turned back to the city.
- 2020: Includes patching and seal coating, primarily Sunnyside area.

Mr. Fritsinger and Ms. Klassen feel the budget is reasonably close at this time. The stagger approach allows to take a closer look at the challenges allowing the City to continue to get state money and continue to complete projects while still working on other public improvement projects.

Question on how the City is meeting the recent inquiries about sidewalk accessibility, curb cuts, etc.? There is no formal strategy in place. These projects do not need to be full block reconstruction and the most deteriorated areas have been targeted.

**Other project items reviewed:**

- Lighting Concept – Needs more discussion.
- CAFD – Their new facility project has a potential impact on some of the improvement projects for the City. Their plan is not built into anything currently on the budget. There are both utility and road improvements that need to be done for that project and they will play a role in the budget.
- Building and Maintenance – Only breakdown from BKV is for the Public Safety facility. As we get into each year, the Council needs more discussion on how to address the maintenance items.
- No changes have been made to the budget since 2<sup>nd</sup> draft. Council will accept the CIP, preliminary budget and levy at the September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Fritsinger explained the budget can go both up and down after the acceptance, but the levy that is associated with all of the CIP cannot go up, it is set at 2.97%.

**Questions/Thoughts/Ideas/Concerns of budget:**

- Mr. Fritsinger explained staggering the projects is a different approach, but it fits with the strategic plan.
- More discussion on the new FD facility. Mr. Kolodge stated it's hard to read what the Fire District Board wants to do and a decision hasn't been made whether to remodel their current building, hold on to the land, or take over the whole public safety building. In order to meet the schedule for the new facility, they would have to start in 2016.
- Question on what happens if the FD doesn't move forward? The Board should have all the information on the parcel in October, which will help to move forward. Many questions still need to be answered. There will come a point where the Council will need to have a discussion with the Board.
- Comment on the appearance of Athletic Park looking worn, can fencing along 14<sup>th</sup> street be replaced earlier than the park is scheduled for? Possible to make the fencing a separate project.
- Discussion on the fencing at Pinehurst and Sunnyside Parks. Staff will add project for 2016-2019 as a sales tax project.
- CARC – After a meeting at the Sr. Center, Mr. Fritsinger went to the hockey arena. The dehumidifier isn't working causing problems, shows what kinds of issues that need to be dealt with there.
- There has been no feedback from the community on proposed projects.
- A sales tax bond of less than \$.5 million will be issued in 2017.
- Mr. Fritsinger noted one full time position was added to the Parks operating budget in 2015, and 2 seasonal added in 2016.
- 2016 budget also includes an Assistant City Administrator per direction of the City Council.
- Two upcoming retirements in 2016.
- Budget discussion will not be on the September 15<sup>th</sup> Work Session agenda, only acceptance at the Regular meeting. Copies will be going out soon.

**Future Agenda Items**

- Discussion of FOA budget. Still haven't been able to get specific information from them.
- Safe routes project is in the budget but there's need for neighborhood discussion. This is scheduled tentatively for next year.
- Shamrock – Stockholder change requiring Council approval as stated in the Agreement.

- Highway 33/I-35 interchange – 2 critical dates under play for project funding. The first is through the HSIP program, application is due the end of October. This is normal MnDOT safety enhancement dollars. Also eligible to make application to the same pool for 90/10 split and can fund through sales tax. TED program is another application. MNDOT has scheduled a public meeting Sept 22 or 23 to talk about the project concepts.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Brian Fritsinger  
City Administrator