



BLACKDUCK CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 2ND, 2015 6PM

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: The City Council of the City of Blackduck met in a scheduled work session at the City Hall at 6:00 p.m. on December 2nd, 2015.

Roll Call

Councilors present: Councilors Christensen, Stade, Loeken, Patch, and Mayor Lundberg

Councilors Absent: none

Staff Present: City Administrator, Christina Regas

Others Present: Curt Meyer and Pat Conroy

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm the Pledge of Allegiance was not recited.

Topics covered in the work session were as follows:

1. **Main & Summit funding – Curt Meyer, City Engineer** Curt Meyer was present to update the council on the funding plans of Main & Summit and other related issues with the project.

First topic was regarding 7-8 large trees along Summit Ave. at the Wayside Rest Park that lay near the main that is scheduled to be replaced. Meyer wanted to discuss the possibility of losing those trees with Public Works Mgr. Bob Klug and the council. It was suggested to move the sewer main to save the trees. Meyer wanted to know if there is a desire to save the trees. The council and Regas asked to have the trees saved where possible. It was decided to move the main where possible and then the only tree not savable would be the farthest east tree. Meyer will consult with Klug as he is not present. Conroy stated that the money asking for with the SCDP Grant does not look positively on additional costs. Meyer stated that there should not be any additional costs to move the main.

Meyer brought up the subject of the possible assessment process if the City does not receive Small Cities funding. He stated that the January meeting would be the right time to start the feasibility report and plan for public meetings. The council would need to order and accept the feasibility report in January or February. Then notifications would be sent and then hold the public hearing in late February. Property owners would need to be told the estimated cost of improvement and that they 'may' be assessed.

Pat Conroy summarized the timeline of the SCDP & PFA funding possibilities. The pre-applications decisions will be sent on December 17th, 2015. Approximately \$147,000 of the project costs would be leveraged by PFA. The rest would come from SCDP. The PFA funds would be loan. The City would know at the pre-application decision point if it will be awarded the Grant. If the City is not awarded SCDP then the water could be moved to PFA but not the sewer. That could be funded from MN Rural Water for the sewer. Christenson asked if SCDP doesn't go and the City has to go to PFA where does the City come up with the Engineering funds. Conroy stated that engineering costs are eligible as part of the PFA. Meyer stated that if Small Cities doesn't come in that assessment would have to be a part of the process. Conroy stated that the housing component makes the program application more positive. Meyer stated that the county is doing the storm sewer and not cost sharing it with the City.

Other topics Meyer discussed included the delineation for the Trail. Meyer stated that it came under the threshold for wet lands. Good news. The culvert on Frontage Road was discussed if it



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will need to be replaced completely or if it can be extended instead. Meyer will visit with Klug on the culvert.

2. **Resolution 2015-17 Establishing a 2016 Council Meeting Schedule – Christina Regas –** Regas presented the proposed meeting schedule for 2016. Regas touched on three months that could be an issue. July 4 and Labor Day holidays will conflict with the City ordinance. The meetings in those months would have to be the Tuesday after the holiday. October meeting could be on the 10th which is Columbus Day but the City of Blackduck doesn't observe that as a day City hall is closed and it is optional day by the state. Patch suggested the council meeting be held on October 4th which would be the Tuesday after the first Monday. Council was in agreement that would support the ordinance and not be too far out in the month. No other discussion was needed.
3. **Blackduck Development Corporation Meeting updates – Christina Regas –** Regas presented the November BDC meeting notes for council discussion. Christenson and Regas touched on the submission for the rezoning of the property. It was stated that the reaction of the Planning Commission was positive. Christenson asked why the homeowner's education course registration was low. Regas stated that the numbers were not there. Steve Cochems was surprised at the low numbers as well. Mayor Lundberg stated that they used to be in two hour blocks instead of an 8 hour day which typically brings in more people.
4. **Blackduck Trestle Updates – Christina Regas –** Regas submitted email notes from Kent Skaar from the DNR that the next engineers estimate will move forward on the trestle. The results of that inspection will provide the basis by which potential rehabilitation or replacement would be considered – both from an engineering perspective as well as that of the Historic Preservation Office. Christenson asked how this report relates to the need to have the Army Corp of Engineers estimate done. Regas stated she believes both would be combined to her knowledge.
5. **Natural Gas Updates – Christina Regas –** Regas submitted emailed notes from Pam Sarvela of MN Energy Resources. At this time Pam states that the project team is evaluating 26 projects throughout the state. Blackduck does not appear feasible for them primarily due to the upgrades that would be required to reach Blackduck. For the foreseeable future (2016/2017) she does not anticipate the extension moving forward. Regas will stay in touch annually with MN Energy Resources.
6. **Liquor Store Renovations Update – Shawnda Lahr, Liquor Store Manager –** Regas submitted Liquor Committee minutes from meetings at the Pond with contractor Brett Carsella for the renovations at the Pond. Mayor Lundberg suggested closing the Pond during the flooring changes instead of late day openings. Patch also thought it would be easier for scheduling and moving tables' chairs, etc. Regas stated that Carsella would like to store the materials at the Pond for acclimation and Lundberg states that is a good idea. It was decided to speak with Carsella about working on the flooring Dec. 14-16 and the Pond will close so they have full access to the bar. Regas will speak with Lahr and Carsella and make the changes.
7. **Other –** Regas stated that she would have the regular council meeting packet ready for the council on Thursday December 3, 2015. The Truth and Taxation meeting will be held at this meeting as well.

ADJOURN – Council adjourned their work session at 7:20pm.

Christina Regas, City Administrator

Daryl Lundberg, Mayor