



MINUTES

Council - Work Session Meeting

6:00 PM - Monday, October 19, 2020
Zoom Meeting

The Council - Work Session of the City of Blackduck was called to order on Monday, October 19, 2020, at 6:00 PM, in the City Hall, 8 Summit Drive, Blackduck MN, with the following members present:

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Councilor Jason Kolb, Mayor Maxwell Gulette, Councilor Sheldon Ostlund, and Councilor Nicholas Seitz

COUNCILORS EXCUSED:

STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Christina Regas, Public Works Supervisor Mike Schwanke, and Club House Manager Pam Exner

OTHERS PRESENT: Gail Levenson and Curt Meyer, Widseth

1 CALL TO ORDER

- a) Roll Call
Regas took roll call of those present to the meeting via Zoom.
- b) Pledge of Allegiance
Mayor Gulette dispensed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- a)

Jason Kolb moved to approve the agenda as presented Sheldon Ostlund seconded the motion.

Carried 4 to 0

Jason Kolb	For
Maxwell Gulette	For
Sheldon Ostlund	For
Nicholas Seitz	For

3 OLD BUSINESS

- a) City Building Remodeling & Rebuilding
Regas presented an updated on the process for the City Building Remodeling and Rebuilding announcing the petition time frame has past and there were no petitions against the project. Meyer reported on the next steps of the process. Meyer stated the programming stage can now begin with Stephen Rose and recommended a contract be drafted with Widseth and a schedule for review at the regular November meeting. Meyer recommended the City form 2 committees for the projects one for the public works/law enforcement building and one for the liquor store. Regas recommended setting those committees at the work session. Mayor Gulette

requested Schwanke be on both committees. Meyer further recommended there not be a quorum of the council on those committees. Regas recommended Schwanke, Grangruth and request Councilor Kolb be part of the public works / law enforcement building committee and Lahr, Melissa Gullette and Councilor Seitz be on the liquor remodel committee and that Regas would attend both.

Levenson emphasized the bonding for the project will need to begin and requested feedback if anyone had started the process. Regas stated she would validate with Todd Hagen from Ehlers the process has started. Regas stated she will request Hagen be present to the November 9 regular council meeting.

Regas asked Meyer if construction could begin in 2021. Meyer stated it is possible for bidding and work to begin in Summer of 2021. No further questions.

b) Golf Course Cart Shed

Regas reported the shed exterior work is complete and final budget expenses will be reported at the November 9 regular meeting. Regas further stated she will report what the debt payment for the shed will be in 2021. Councilor Kolb asked if the payment is annual. Regas confirmed and further stated she will consult the resolution approving the debt payment start date. Mayor Gullette asked if the irrigation lines will be blown out this week. Schwanke stated the plan was to complete the lines on Friday, October 23. Nothing further.

c) Public Works Truck

Schwanke reported the trucks are being built on November 2 and then once shipped and equipped by United Truck Body tentative delivery would be mid-November. Councilor Kolb asked if the trucks would be decaled before delivery. Schwanke stated the decals would happen after delivery.

d) Council Vacancy

Nothing to report at this time.

e) Blackduck Hot Water AIS Station

Nothing to report at this time.

f) CARES Funding Updates

Regas reported the Blackduck Business assistance approved 3 grants to local businesses and there is enough of the committed funding to do a second round of grants before the deadline. Regas further stated from her review of the spending of the City funds she is confident all the funds will be used by the November 15, 2020 deadline.

4 NEW BUSINESS

a) Blackduck Library Deck and Front ADA access

Mayor Gullette stated the library deck and front ramp needs repairs and upgrades to be ADA compliant. Regas asked if there is a design and cost estimate decided on. Gullette stated not at this time but there needs to be some consideration by the City for necessary upgrades. Gullette stated the current decking was put on by volunteers and is not to ADA standards. Councilor Ostlund asked how often the back deck is used in the winter time. Councilor Seitz stated the back deck is used as an emergency exit and should have consideration for repairs. Gullette stated there is a Library Board meeting Tuesday and he will make a point to the board that when it is updated it will be up to code 100%. Regas recommended involving the library board first and then go from there. Schwanke stated he will have his team look at the front ramp for updates to get through the winter and then focus on it in 2021.

b) Resolution 2020-01 Revision - Annual appointments and designations for 2020

Mayor Gullette recommended making no further appointment and designation changes until after the general election. Councilor Kolb agreed.

c) Local Sales Tax - 2021 Legislative Process

Regas reported to the council how the new process for approving local sales tax changed in 2019 and that Blackduck missed the deadline in January 2020 to have the consideration for a local sales tax on the 2020 general election ballot. Regas further stated the need to start the process for the next general election which would be 2022 now if the City wishes to have an opportunity to consider it. Mayor Gullette recommended approving the resolution and moving forward with the local sales tax. Nothing further.

- d) Blackduck Ordinance §1120 Beer, Wine & Liquor Licensing - update for 3.2% liquor
Regas brought the current City Ordinance to the council for amendment consideration. Regas reminded the council the status of 3.2% liquor in the state and how it may expire in the next year. Regas further stated the Blackduck Bowling alley if 3.2% alcohol expired would have only the option of an intoxicating liquor license for their business. Regas further stated the state statute does allow cities to issue strong beer and wine licenses to bowling alleys without liquor but the Blackduck Ordinance does not allow. Mayor Gullette asked if the owner of the bowling alley specifically asked the City to amend. Regas stated the owner did not request it specifically but that the owner did ask for other options for the business. Councilor Kolb asked if the owner's view on not providing hard liquor had changed. Regas stated no it had not but the owner would want to have another option between 3.2% or wine and then intoxicating liquor. Kolb asked if the City can provide for another type of license that is 'in-between'. Regas stated yes. Gullette asked how many years has 3.2% been 'going-away'. Regas could not comment on the time but could state that even Beltrami County was aware of how that will affect some local businesses. Kolb asked if the City moved forward and amended the ordinance would the owner have to apply for another license after receiving the 3.2% license. Regas confirmed. Kolb recommended the City move forward with the amendments. Regas stated her department will begin working with the City Attorney on the new language and then present a fee for a new license option. Nothing further.
- e) City Hall Access to the Public
Mayor Gullette requested an update from Regas on access to City Hall from her department. Regas stated her staff can return to City Hall on Wednesday, October 21 at which point she and staff will deep clean the interior building so it is safe for the public and the upcoming election. Regas stated her concern for keeping City Hall closed to the public after Friday October 23. Kolb asked if Schwanke is comfortable being in the building. Schwanke stated he is comfortable with the plan and to not be in the building. Regas stated that no one has been in city hall at the work stations and the time the virus can live on surfaces there should be a low risk to others. Gullette stated that he is ok keeping city hall closed as long as by the election on November 3, 2020 the residents have access. Nothing further.
- f) Blackduck Police Department FT Officer vacancy
Regas spoke on behalf of Chief Grangruth stating Officer Jespersen did not have an official offer from another department until after the regular council meeting. Regas further stated withholding this information regarding a vacancy from the city was without malice or desete. Regas stated the police chief requested to start an eligibility list for additional part-timer officers earlier in the month. Councilor Kolb stated his only concern was that he found out about the vacancy in the paper and it caught him off-guard. Regas stated the timing was not good for the police department and the vacancy to involve the council as the police chief was also subject to quarantine also. Nothing further.
- g) Street Lighting update -
Schwanke provided an update on the 2020 street lighting updates and an update on the MnDot light on Hwy 71 and CSAH 30.

5 ADJOURNMENT

a)

Jason Kolb moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:15pm Sheldon Ostlund seconded the motion.

Carried 4 to 0

Jason Kolb	For
Maxwell Gullette	For
Sheldon Ostlund	For
Nicholas Seitz	For

Christina Regas, City Administrator

Maxwell Gullette, Mayor