



BLACKDUCK CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

MONDAY MARCH 20TH, 2017 6:00PM

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 March 20th, 2017.

Roll Call

Councilors present: Mayor Patch, Councilors Stade, Kolb, and Molnar

Councilors Absent: none

Staff Present: City Administrator, Christina Regas

Others Present: none

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm the Pledge of Allegiance was not recited.

Topics covered in the work session were as follows:

1. OLD BUSINESS –

- a. Fireworks Bill – Regas updated the council on a new bill moving through at the capital to authorize the sale of “aerial and audible devices”. The bill has passed the House Public Safety and Security Policy and Finance committee. The bill also designates a portion of fireworks sales tax revenue to programs that promote fire safety and benefit local fire departments. Currently fire chiefs and the state fire marshal are against the bill. Regas introduced the legislation to council for consideration if the bill passes and what that will look like for the City of Blackduck. Currently the City does not allow fireworks inside the City at all. Mayor Patch stated that the City could issue special permits to allow them at a charge for a special event. Regas stated that at this time the conversation would need to include the public in the form of a hearing, and the public safety committee. Council Kolb asked if the City would hold a public hearing to hear comments for and against. Regas stated yes. Councilor Molnar stated that there is a good chance it won’t pass. Regas stated that in 2012 Dayton vetoed the last legislation. Mayor Patch stated that the City could leave the City ordinance the way it is now until the public has a big concern or need.
- b. Blackduck Road Projects –
 - i. 2017 Summary of Road Projects – Regas gave updates on road projects in the City.
 1. Water & Sewer Project on Summit & Main – Regas update council on the SCDP funding and the need for additional funding. Regas stated that Christine Schreiber authorized the City the adjustment of the City grant to maximize the public facility to \$600,000. By doing this \$21,750 would be removed from the housing rehab portion of the grant and move it to the public facility. Regas provided for council review of a grant adjustment notice from Pat Armon to allow for the grant reallocation of funds. Regas stated that this is a big win for Blackduck.
 2. NRC Delay costs – Regas informed the council on the information from John Noehring from Beltrami County that the concrete contractor has



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‘verbally’ removed their invoice for \$54,000 for the delay costs. This too is good news for the City.

- c. Vacant Committee Seats – Regas updated the council on the following vacant seats all posted on the City website.
 - i. Kitchigami Regional Library Board – Regas reminded the council that the Library board still had a vacancy and urged councilors to assist in seeking out a candidate to fill the vacancy.
 - ii. Park & Trail Board – Regas reminded the council that the park & trail board still needed another seat filled; no councilor offered to fill the seat.
 - iii. Vacant Council Seat – Regas has not had any resident interested in filling the vacant council seat.
 - d. Blackduck School District Warming House Electricity Bill – Regas stated that the School board did approve to take over the electricity billing for the warming house at the school.
 - e. BEC District 4 Position – Regas stated that she did get nominated for the Beltrami Electric District 4 position and elections will begin April 6th. Regas is seeking any and all support from the members.
 - f. Council Member Emails – Regas assisted the council with technical issues for their new email accounts. Some councilors stated that it works well. Others are having problems. Regas stated she can assist on a one on one basis.
- 2. NEW BUSINESS –**
- a. After Prom Party Donation for 2017 – Regas provided a donation application for the Blackduck After Prom Party for 2017. Councilor Kolb had a few questions as to what qualifies and what does not from the pull tab rent fund. Regas and Mayor Patch summarized several previous donations made and why they were made. Regas stated that historically the City of Blackduck commits \$1,000 to this event. All councilors were in approval of authorizing the donation at the next meeting in April.
 - b. Liability Coverage Waiving Monetary limits – Regas provided for council review the annual liability coverage waiver form declaring the City does not waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability. Regas stated that this form will need council approval at the next regular meeting.
 - c. Twins Photo Release for the Blackduck Drake – Regas submitted for review a photography/video property release for the Blackduck Drake to be included in an upcoming Twins “Hats off to MN” Promotion coming up in April. A nice new promotion for the City.
 - d. New Sunday Liquor Law – Regas started the conversation with the council regarding the new law that will start on July 2, 2017 to allow our off-sale liquor store to be open for business from 11-6pm. Regas stated that she has been researching the City of Blackduck ordinance and if it will need revising. After conversation with the attorneys at LMC, Regas noted that the City would not need to change its ordinance as the City would just follow state law. Additional conversation will need to take place for what The Pond will be open when it becomes law. Regas and Lahr have had conversations about what it will look like, staffing, maintenance, etc. and hours of operation. Mayor Patch stated that he believes the City does not need to be open in the on-sale the whole time and then The Pond could use that time for more cleaning time. Regas stated that some of the ideas were to close down the on-sale at 10pm, and stop serving food (grill) at 6pm when off-sale closes. Regas reminded council that when the City decides to have the Pond open



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then the budget will see additional expenses. Councilor Kolb asked if a revised budget could be provided or an estimation of additional costs to the Pond for staffing, operations, etc. Regas stated a summary could be provided by the committee meeting.

- e. Employee Discounts – Mayor Patch stated that he has been made aware of some previous employees getting the employee discount that is given in the off-sale. After much conversation Regas recommended a roster of employees be submitted to the Pond quarterly for the Pond staff to refer to when issuing the discount. There was additional conversation regarding the discount and if it should be allowed as Regas found out from the League of MN Cities that it is not looked upon as a good use of City funds. Regas will have more conversation with the Liquor Store manager and do more research about The Pond issuing it.
3. **ADJOURN** – Council adjourned their work session at 7:10pm.

Christina Regas, City Administrator

Rudy Patch, Mayor