



BLACKDUCK CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

TUESDAY JUNE 23RD, 2015 6PM

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: The City Council of the City of Blackduck met in a scheduled work session at Blackduck City Hall at 6:00 p.m. on June 23rd, 2015.

Roll Call

Councilors present: Councilors Christenson, Loeken, and Patch

Councilors Absent: Mayor Lundberg

Staff Present: City Administrator, Christina Regas

Others Present: none

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. **Liability Coverage Waiver Form** – Regas presented the annual waiver of monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by MN Statutes § 466.04. The City of Blackduck has the option to waive the statutory tort limits; an individual claimant would be able to recover no more than \$500,000 on any claim to which the statutory tort limits apply. The total all claimants would be able to recover for a single occurrence to which the statutory tort limits apply would be limited to \$1,500,000. These statutory tort limits apply regardless of whether the city purchases the optional excess liability coverage. The council agreed to not waive the limits.
2. **City Property form/policy** – The council reviewed a form to request to use city property within the City of Blackduck. Regas summarized the need for a form to reserve the City Ballfields as there has been requests for use the summer.
3. **HRDC Commission Meeting update** – Councilor Christensen reviewed three programs the HRDC has given the Commission information on for small cities. The first program is a free home buyer’s seminar of which the council agreed to have the City host this coming fall. The second is PACE – property assessed clean energy financing – a new way to finance energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades to the buildings of commercial property owners. The third is GESP – Guaranteed Energy Savings Program – a performance based procurement and financing mechanism that leverages maintenance, operations, and utilities savings achieved through the installation of energy efficiency and renewable energy measures. Regas will take the programs back and review them with Public works manager Bob Klug.
4. **Tax Forfeit property** – Regas reviewed a list of tax forfeit parcels inside the city limits for the council to review. Council will need to approve the sale of these parcels by statute.
5. **Natural Gas Project Update - An** update was provided by Regas to council from MN Energy Resources: June 23rd, 2015 the following communication with Pam was sent to Christina when asked for any updates, “We are not currently working on this at all – as we are in the middle of the 2015 construction season. I guess the update however, would be that we would not be looking at extension until 2017 at the earliest, as we have a two year plan to increase the pressures in the northern region of Bemidji, which needs to occur before we could extend to Blackduck. Let’s plan on reconnecting in October of this year to discuss a timeline and how we can keep this on our radar and ready to activate.



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I will also let you know that some legislation has passed regarding piping new towns – where up to 1/3 of the cost can be socialized across our whole system. There are still some approvals at the MN PUC, but this is good news for new towns like yours.”

Kind Regards, Pam

Councilor Patch requested a new survey or a letter be sent out to residents explaining more about natural gas and how it can save them money as not many residents understood the survey or even knew what natural gas was. Regas agreed that an article in the American would be a good idea or another informational meeting.

6. **Local Donation requests** – Council reviewed requests from the Backwoods Bash committee, the Blackduck Chamber of Commerce, and Blackduck Summer Baseball for donations. Recommendations were made and the council will address the donations at the next council meeting.
7. **Beltrami Council Emergency Communication ARMER (Allied Radio Matrix Emergency Response) Project** – Council discussed briefly Phase 1 Proposal from Beryl Wernberg, Emergency Communications director at Beltrami County and how it could affect the City of Blackduck and the Police Department. The proposal summarizes the need to move to ARMER radios for law enforcement and the proposed costs to the city. More information will come in August and Regas will keep the council updated. The short term plan is to upgrade law enforcement now and Fire in 5 years.
8. **Blackduck Development Corp** - The council was brought up to speed with the BDC’s project for housing in town and how the MMCDC is looking into purchasing property on Oscar Ave. from Jim Wolden. Regas let the council know that the BDC and MMCDC have requested the City ‘help’ with the creation of the housing either by building the road or with utilities. Regas reviewed with council her research on what the City can offer. Regas has only found in the existing zoning ordinances that new roads must be built by the developer.
9. **Trestle Update** – Councilor Christensen updated the council on what he has learned about the Trestle now that the special session is closed at the state. The AG Bill kept the \$500,000 funding for the Trestle in the bill and it is earmarked until 2019. Greg Nelson of the DNR stated to Christensen that representative wish to have a meeting with council to review and bring up to speed the City of Blackduck where the future of the Trestle can be. Either a redesign or an update to support the type of use it receives year round. Regas will schedule the meeting with council mi-July.
9. **Lighting Fee updates** – Council was informed of complaints that were being made from the newly charged property owners for the semi-annual lighting fee. Regas stated that she and Angel had taken complaints in the past few weeks. Regas stated some residents were ok with it and paid it but some do not understand the need for them to be charged.

ADJOURN – Council adjourned their work session at 7:25pm.

Christina Regas, City Administrator

Daryl Lundberg, Mayor