



BLACKDUCK CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 19, 2019 @ 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 6:05PM on February 19, 2019.

Roll Call

Councilors present: Mayor Patch, Councilors Kolb, Moore, Sellon, and Gullette

Councilors Absent: none

Staff Present: City Administrator, Christina Regas and Police Chief Jace Grangruth

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:

OLD BUSINESS –

1. Housing Rehab Return of funds – Regas reported the City has not been updated from the HRDC on the last potential housing application but would reach out and have an answer for council by the March meeting.
2. Donation Request – Blackduck Robotics Sponsorship – Regas requested final discussion on the request for donations for the Robotics team. Mayor Patch reminded the robotics is part of the boosters and the City would be safer donating to the boosters if requested and allow the boosters to distribute the funds. Councilor Gullette asked if the City can donate to the school. Regas confirmed noting donations have been sent to the Blackduck Prom, and the Baseball Boosters for the concessions stand. Gullette noted the boosters have an ample amount of funds to currently support many activities. Regas noted the item would be removed from the agenda. Nothing further.
3. Police Department Squad Update – Chief Grangruth presented to Council the issues brought to him recently regarding the purchase of the new Dodge squad ordered in November of 2018. Grangruth stated the Dodge would not be delivered due to emissions issues and presented the Council with a second and third choice. The second choice is the Ford F150 pick up or the Chevy Tahoe. Grangruth reviewed the specks with the council and quotes for consideration. Grangruth reported the Ford F150 would take delivery in 90 days and cost \$33,354.68 plus a tunnel cover and police interior equipment. Grangruth noted the Chevy Tahoe would take delivery in April of 2019 and cost \$36,105.22 plus the police squad interior equipment. Grangruth noted the interior equipment ordered when the Dodge was ordered in the Fall of 2018 has been sitting at Roger's Two Way and would all need to be returned and reordered for a new vehicle. Councilor Gullette asked the cost on the accessories ordered. Grangruth stated the cost was approximately \$10,000 and Roger's may give the City credit to exchange for new equipment. Regas reported that Hibbing Ford/Chevy would be the dealer offering the state contract bid pricing. Councilor Kolb asked Grangruth which of the two vehicles would be the better choice. Mayor Patch noted that the F150 would have the same idle issues the department is having with the current squad from his experience working on those models and recommended the Chevy Tahoe. Councilor Gullette asked what the 4WD on the Tahoe. Grangruth reported it is AWD. Regas asked if the Tahoe was the second choice when the Council agreed to purchase the Dodge in July of 2018. Grangruth stated it was his first choice but went with the Dodge to save on costs and the Dodge would have done what was needed for the department. Regas asked how the outlook on the current squad is holding at for longevity. Grangruth stated the oil pressure is very low and it isn't very reliable. Councilor Moore noted the upfront costs would be



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more on the Tahoe but it appears the longevity of the vehicle will make up for the costs. Regas reminded Council of the balance of the restricted police squad fund when the purchase of the Dodge was approved in July of 2018 and noted an additional \$10,000 in 2019 would be added to compensate for the additional cost of the Tahoe versus the Dodge plus whatever the equipment additional costs for exchanges would incur. Regas recommended Council direct Chief Grangruth to request quotes from Rogers Two Way for the accessories for the Tahoe so Council may officially approve of the Tahoe at the March regular meeting. Mayor Patch agreed.

NEW BUSINESS –

1. City of Blackduck City Wide Tour – Regas provided to Council a summary of a City-Wide Tour completed in Baudette for review. Regas noted some of the items the Council reviews during the tour and noted she tours the City once or twice with the Planning Commission or by herself annually but this opportunity would allow the City Council to see what she and PC sees. Regas requested the Council book a tentative date noting Baudette does their City in late May. *The Council scheduled a tentative date of June 6, 2019 @ 4:30pm.* Nothing further.
2. LMCIT Annual Liability Coverage Waiver – Regas noted the annual LMCIT Liability Coverage Waiver of tort limits will be in the March packet for approval. Nothing further.
3. 2018 Financial Audit – Regas reviewed the team from Miller McDonald completed their on-site work in two days and that it appears the financial review would be done earlier to report to the Council than last years.
4. Blackduck HRA & EDA – Regas reported to the council the plans to resurrect the HRA & EDA and get assistance from Tim Flathers from HRDC as that entity works as the organizational unit for the Beltrami HRA and the Clearbrook HRA. Regas further reported that after reviewing a memo from the LMC the vacant board seats on the Blackduck HRA could be held by the existing Council until filled by other interested parties. Regas included for Council review two parcels of land the City should consider selling/acquiring for development in the future by having the EDA working. Regas stated parcel 81.00024.01 (old JC Ballfields) should be sold for future development once the assessment has been paid or sooner. Regas stated the second parcel 81.00120.01 next to the City Hall has been abandoned for some time and needs to be demolished. Regas believed the City EDA could purchase it and demo it and use it for future economic development. Regas recommended the City work with Tim Flathers and report to the Council in March with a plan. Nothing further at this time.
5. City of Blackduck Tobacco Licensure – Regas supplied for council review updates on the Tobacco 21 intent to expand the age of tobacco to 21 statewide and how it is affecting other smaller communities in Beltrami County.
 - a. City of Wilton Ordinance – Mayor Patch was approached by the City of Wilton and asked what Blackduck was doing about the Beltrami County Ordinance revisions. Mayor Patch reported Wilton adopted an ordinance to license in the City and then sell to people under 21. Patch suggested the City of Blackduck consider adopting a similar ordinance and license the tobacco sales for Blackduck instead of the County.
 - b. Adopting a City Ordinance – Regas stated if Blackduck agrees to approve an Ordinance for the Licensing a public hearing would need to be held before approval. Regas did not believe the City of Blackduck would hurt from being the licensee for Blackduck. Regas reported to the Council that if the City was the licensure then Blackduck would be doing the compliance checks noting the government entity that is the licensure would issue the compliance checks. Regas stated there would be more reporting for the city of Blackduck but would do the work if approved.
 - c. MN Statute SF#463 - Regas reported to Council the bill at the Senate looking for approval to adopt the state age to 21. Regas further stated if the State approved the state age to 21 then a City Ordinance would null and void the 18-20 age. Regas stated if past a City could make their City more stringent but not lower it. Regas recommended contacting the lobbyist in charge of the bill and get more



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information. Mayor Patch asked if the state knows how many smaller cities are trying to pass their own ordinances to keep the age to 18 that the state won't pass the bill. Regas did not believe it wouldn't be passed noting how many cities over 2500 population will be in favor of it. Regas further stated even if the City would be the licenser and pass an ordinance in 2019 the retailers are not going to renew their licenses again in 2019 just to stay under 21.

- d. City of Blackduck Ordinance – Councilor Sellon suggested the City of Blackduck still work to pass the ordinance in case the bill does not pass at the State level. Councilor Gulette stated he as a smoker he would be for it. Councilor Moore is for the age of 21. Regas reminded Council would need to take the feedback of the public before approving of the ordinance. Regas believed that the public hearing would have attendance if called knowing how much press time Tobacco 21 is getting. Regas stated regardless if the bill is passed or the City passes an ordinance the licensing would still happen if approved. Councilor Sellon suggested the City hold its own hearing for the Ordinance. Regas suggested the Council schedule the public hearing on March 25, 2019 to plan ahead and would add the topic to the March Council Meeting agenda.
6. Natural Gas – Regas was requested by a resident to bring the natural gas topic back up to the council so that it could possibly move further and into Blackduck. Regas reviewed that actions taken by the City and MN Energy Resources in 2014 & 2015 with the current Council noting that after the surveys were sent out the utility was not prepared to move forward with expanding to Blackduck due to current pressure issues in Bemidji and costs. Mayor Patch recommended holding a public hearing to have more public input because the first survey did not give enough information to the residents about how much it would cost to switch over to natural gas and how much they would save instead of using propane. Regas agreed to bring the topic back up at the next meeting and will include the Council when the City receives an update from MN Energy Resources. Nothing further.
7. Snowmobile Club Parking Lot – Councilor Gulette requested an update on the snowmobile club parking lot. Regas stated the Planning Commission is meeting on February 20, 2019 @ 2pm. Regas reported on the current ADA requirements for the grant and the property tax requirements once owned by the club. Councilor Gulette asked why the club was not considering the 3 City owned parcels just near the trail. Regas stated the land is very low and would need filling, potential wetland credits before making the parcel usable. Mayor Patch asked if Councilor Gulette does not want the parking lot on the main highway. Gulette responded noting the City owned parcels would never be able to be developed as residential but the potential lot the club wants to purchase could be developed commercial and would that not be the better choice of land then. Mayor Patch stated the club's idea of having a parcel that could have a building on it sizable to hold the grooming equipment was the main plan and the City owned parcels would not be. Regas stated if the City would build a parking lot on the parcels owned by conveyance on 3rd Street SE then the City would own and maintain the lot. Regas further stated that if the City does not do anything with the parcel(s) then they go back to tax-forfeiture. Nothing further at this time.

ADJOURN – Council adjourned their work session at 7:55pm.

Christina Regas, City Administrator

Rudy Patch, Mayor