

The Battle Lake City Council met in special session on Wednesday, April 19, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Battle Lake City Hall to discuss the MnDOT right-of-way and amenity zone. Mayor Gene Kelm called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with Council members John A. Salvevold, Marjorie Quammen, Don Maslow and Ryan Christensen present. Also present were City Attorney, JJ Cline; Clerk/Treasurer, Val Martin; Police Chief, Kent Kortlever; and Public Works Superintendent, Steve Seufert. Additional visitors were also in attendance.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

It was noted the invitation letter that was sent to businesses within the amenity zone:

*In anticipation of the upcoming summer season, the City Council would like to meet with the businesses that are in the downtown area affected by the requirements within the amenity zone. We have scheduled a special meeting on **Wednesday, April, 19, 2017** at Battle Lake City Hall at 7:00 p.m. The council is considering the purchase of benches to be placed in the amenity zone and **we NEED your input on this matter.** The council is considering custom-made aluminum benches with a length of 6 or 8 feet and a width of 24 inches with no back so seating can be on both sides. The benches will be powder-coated and we hope to have artwork from Paul Boyum added on each end of the bench so they complement the artwork that has already been placed in the downtown area. We'd like your thoughts on this proposal and to help decide where benches may be located and/or to begin a plan for the looks of the downtown area. Although, the Limited Use Permit with MnDOT may not be completed by the beginning of the tourist season, we are working with them to try and get some items made as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please call City Hall.*

Council noted their disappointment in the lack of participation from the affected business owners. The only people in attendance were business owners, Spark and Ellie Chase and they are not within the area affected.

Council discussed different options for items in the amenity zone. Do we do benches and flower pots? Only benches? How do we make best use of the space with a look that compliments what is already out there? The benches should be wide enough to seat people on both sides – probably 30 inches wide. The powder coating will be different shades of blue. Council member Christensen suggested we use the benches painted by Art of the Lakes in the alley as that is our own right-of-way. Martin will check to see if there are any of those benches available and to see if Art of the Lakes is willing to do this.

After full discussion of the options for the purchase of benches, Christensen made a motion to get firm prices for 5 benches that are 30 inches wide, 2 will be 10 feet long and 3 will be 8 feet long. Salvevold seconded. MCU The council discussed a maximum to spend should be \$10,000. The cost for the benches will include making them, powder coating, installation and artwork for the sides.

Salvevold made a motion to place the new benches in the following amenity zone locations and priority:

1. Granny's Pantry
2. First National Bank
3. Battle Lake Boathouse
4. Carlson-Highland
5. Fall Bakery
6. Everts Lumber

Christenson seconded. MCU Salvevold made a motion to amend the motion to include the length of the benches: 10 foot at Granny's Pantry and First National Bank locations and 8 foot in the other locations. Christensen seconded the amendment. MCU

Maintenance of the benches was discussed. Who will clean them? It would seem appropriate that businesses would take care of the maintenance in front of their business as they do with sweeping the sidewalk.

Attorney Cline suggested we make sure the benches are on the insurance plan. Martin will discuss this with the agent.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Valerie J. Martin, Clerk/Treasurer