

**CHISHOLM CITY COUNCIL  
WORKING SESSION – SEPTEMBER 17, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Adam Lantz called the City Council Meeting to order in the City Hall Council Chambers at 4:08 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Council Members Marty Halverson, Cheyenne Mikkola-Rahja, April Fountain (arrived at 5:19), Jed Holewa (arrived at 4:47), Travis Vake (arrived at 5:50), and Mayor Adam Lantz.

Absent: None

Also Present: City Administrator Stephanie Skraba, Attorney Bryan Lindsay, Clerk-Treasurer Devin Ceglar, Parks/Trails/Recreation Director Bridgit Maruska, Confidential Administrative Assistant Susan Trunk, Pete Kero and Andrea Wedul-BARR Engineering, Chris Porter-Iron Range off Road Cyclist President, Erin Cullen-MDC Staff Representative, Erik Carlson-Trail Ranger Construction, Pat Cassingham-Trail Boss Redhead,

REDHEAD MOUNTAIN BIKE PARK

The two projects being discussed are the BARR contracts for the LCCMR and the IRRR Connectivity grants.

Administrator Skraba provided an update on the grants that are earmarked for Redhead Mountain Bike Park. The funds from the State of Minnesota in the amount of \$500,000 to be administered through the DNR had to be incumbered by June unbeknown to the City. Typically, the grants have 2 years to incumber, but this one was 1 year. Administrator Skraba is working with the City's Lobbyist Jeff Anderson to reallocate the funds from the DNR. Jeff has met with the DNR Commissioner.

Pete Kero from BARR Engineering presented the updates and figures for the master plan that is under development. He reviewed the existing conditions, new trail expansion areas, future expansion, and the possibility of being a designated regional trail.

Councilor Halverson had requested the BARR agreements be removed from the September 11, 2024 City Council Agenda packet to be discussed further and stating that they were not ready, that they need to wait and see if there are additional grant funds. He expressed his concerns about the cost of renovating the trail head and the pump track at Lake Park compared to repairing and building out current trails. Per Councilor Halverson, it is hard for him to support the project without a clear scope of what is going to be built and believes the city should wait to see if there is an additional grant. His recommendations are to wait on developing a scope for design engineering of the trailhead until the actual construction budget is established.

Director Maruska provided information about what is included in the connectivity grant from IRRR. The first item was to formalize the master plan and that has already been engaged, second was building out the east corridor with Bruce Mine Headframe Park trail head (serving as Redhead 2<sup>nd</sup> trailhead), and third the supplementation of the scope of work funded by LCCMR. She also discussed the funding to be utilized for amenities in town. Director Maruska discussed communications she has had with Mike Campana, the senior project analyst assigned to the LCCMR grant stating that amendments to the activities can be approved as long as MDC/City of Chisholm is fulfilling the appropriation language. She suggested that the Redhead committee members come to a consensus, that everyone has a voice, determine where we go from there, and bring that back to council.

Attorney Lindsay reviewed the purpose of the working session is to discuss the content of the contracts so that the members of the council can weigh in on policy and direction they would like to see Redhead go. Redhead is a City of Chisholm project; the council sets the policy for the city. What he is hearing in the meeting is a difference in opinion of what the policy of the city should be as it relates to Redhead expenditures of the funds it has received so far. One opinion is it should invest in the purposed contracts, laying the foundation for plans to bring elements of Redhead into town to begin to foster a larger community of biking. The other vision is to develop more trails within Redhead Mountain bike park. Furthermore, the council should be determining what they believe the vision of Redhead to be.

The council members discussed connectivity aspects of connecting Redhead to town, timeframe of building, cost of building, what tasks can wait for future expansion, working with contractors to get actual costs, and what will be presented at the next council meeting.

ADJOURN WORKING SESSION

Moved by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja and supported by Councilor Holewa to adjourn the Working Session at 6:06 pm.

Voting Aye: Councilors Halverson, Mikkola-Rahja, Fountain, Holewa, Vake, and Mayor Lantz

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/ Adam Lantz, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/ Stephanie Skraba, Administrator