

Remarks from Mayor Daines and Library Director Karen Clark
August 18, 2020
City Council Meeting

Mayor Daines Remarks:

"Good evening. I'd like to ask Karen Clark, our Library Director to join me. There have been discussions for many years about a new Library and Community Center for Logan. Things have been quiet as we continued to explore options, and tonight we will present our recommendations to **tear down the existing library and rebuild on the site**, and offer a proposed financial plan to move forward to begin design and construct the new building.

Several factors influenced our decision:

- First, Logan desperately needs a new library to better serve patrons as the current facility is literally falling apart from the roof to the very-scary HVAC system in the basement.
- Second, acquiring new property is expensive, and could have added a million dollars to the budget.
- Third, people are happy with the current location at city hall plaza. It's familiar, and they can take care of other city business at the same time.
- Fourth, Downtown revitalization is important, and renovating this portion of Main Street would be a win for downtown. Later on tonight's agenda, under the Redevelopment Agency, we are also asking the council to consider funding the purchase of property and vacant buildings near the corner of 300 North and Main. If approved, our intent is to demolish the blighted buildings and use the property to facilitate a future mixed use development at that site.

A new library, and a cleanup of the 300 North corner would be a big win for Downtown, and for library patrons.

I'll let Karen talk about how they could run a temporary library during construction, and her perspective on the location. Then we will turn the time over to the Hacker Architectural Team. Kent Craven, of the local partner Design West, is here with us in person, with the rest of the team joining us via zoom. Hacker specializes in designing libraries and were selected during Mayor Peterson's tenure. They were involved in the needs assessment and site selection study at that time, and one location that was considered was the existing site. Then Rich Anderson will outline our financial plan. "

The cost projections are \$15.9 million. We have about \$8M set aside for the library. In order to move ahead, we are proposing next August, as part of Truth in Taxation hearings, that we ask Council to increase the Library portion of city property taxes. That increase would be \$16.94 a year on the average Logan home (value of \$281,100.)

Remarks from Library Director Karen Clark.

The Logan Library Board and staff are in favor of the location and plan for the new library. This location has served our patrons well for over 30 years. It is central to many places in Logan and is located in the heart of Logan. We are happy to welcome over 700 visitors per day to our library with many meetings going on. The library is a Community Center providing a place for all to be welcome. We provide internet with desk tops and laptops as well as wifi to all who enter our building. Our story times provide magic and music to our preschoolers and afterschool activities abound for all school aged youth, from 5-18! Lego club, Tween Time, Teen Tuesday as well as frequent Friday afternoon movies helped us engage with our younger patrons. We provided a place for our refugee group to meet every evening for homework help. We are/were a bustling busy place for all of our library patrons. Then COVID-19 hit and we were forced to close our doors for safety reasons.

Since March, 13, 2020, we have increased our online presence for our library patrons. We enhanced our Pick it Up service and our Books by Mail programs to help our patrons still have access to our library! We created online story time programs and provided take and make craft activities. We know how to provide library service to our patrons remotely as well. While closed for construction, we have plans to offer programming in remote places such as parks, schools, assisted living centers and any other community center place we can find. However, it won't replace the library and what we can provide our patrons inside our building. A new facility would greatly enhance our ability to serve our citizens of all ages, interests, and abilities, especially children and teens. We miss our patrons and can't wait to be able to serve them fully from a new library.