

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Council Workshop of the North Mankato City Council was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on March 3, 2008. Mayor Zellmer called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The following were present for the meeting: Mayor Zellmer, Council Members Steiner, Norland, DeWitte and Schindle, Administrator Sande, Finance Director Mork, Attorney Kennedy, Planner Fischer and City Clerk Gehrke.

Sign Ordinance

Planner Fischer reported as a result of a recent variance request from North Central International to increase the maximum amount of signage for a new building, staff has reviewed the sign ordinances to accommodate industrial uses of other comparable cities. In summary, in the City of North Mankato industrial districts are allowed a maximum square footage not to exceed 125 square feet with a maximum of two business and either one ground or one pylon sign permitted. After reviewing existing signage, staff is recommending the following:

- Buildings of less than 25,000 sq. ft. are permitted 125 sq. ft. of total signage.
- Buildings of over 25,000 sq. ft. are permitted 325 sq. ft. of total signage.
- Either 1 ground or 1 pylon sign permitted on lots with 1 street frontage.
- Lots with 2 street frontages are permitted the use of 1 ground and 1 pylon sign.
- No freestanding or building sign shall exceed 150 sq. ft. in size.

The Council requested the Planning Commission review staff recommendations and report back to the City Council.

Bennett Street Alignment Options

Administrator Sande presented five alternate plans for the Bennett Street alignment:

- Option 1** – 30' curb opening and a 5' sidewalk on the west side.
- Option 2** – 30' curb opening, offset centerline, 5' sidewalk on the west side.
- Option 3** – 30' curb opening, offset centerline, 5' sidewalk on the east side.
- Option 4** – 24' curb opening, offset centerline, 4' sidewalk both sides.
- Option 5** – 24' curb opening, offset centerline, 5' sidewalk on west side.

The Administrator reported that Option 1 was the original plan submitted to the residents at the neighborhood meeting held on January 31, 2008. The Council requested this item be placed on the next Council Workshop for final review. The Council Workshop will be held prior to the Special Council meeting set for March 24, 2008.

Administrative Fines

Administrator Sande reported bills are in the Legislature to both authorize cities to issue administrative fines in lieu of state fines for traffic enforcement and to outlaw the use of administrative fines. He reported that 60 to 100 cities in the State are using administrative fines in lieu of writing tickets for traffic violations which allows them to keep a greater share of the money. Attorney Kennedy reported he has worked with the City of Waseca and they adopted a resolution defining administrative offenses and penalties. This procedure has allowed the City of Waseca to benefit in several ways by generating much needed revenue that was lost due to LGA reductions, strengthening police and community relations while still holding individuals accountable and reducing the workload of both local law enforcement and the courts. Attorney

Kennedy reported the cost of implementation is minimal. Waseca has issued 1,000 administrative fines per year generating \$30,000 to \$40,000. The Council requested the City Administrator work with the Police Chief and bring a recommendation to the Council regarding the use of administrative fines in the City of North Mankato.

There being no further business, the Council workshop was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk