

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the North Mankato City Council was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on November 5, 2007. Mayor Zellmer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. asking that everyone join in the Pledge of Allegiance. The following were present for the meeting, Mayor Zellmer, Council Members Steiner, DeWitte and Schindle, Administrator Sande, Finance Director Mork, Engineer Malm, Attorney Kennedy, Planner Fischer and City Clerk Gehrke. Absent: Council Member Norland.

### **Approval of Minutes**

**Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member DeWitte, to approve the minutes of the Council meeting of October 15, 2007 with one change and the Council Workshop of October 15, 2007. Vote on the motion: Steiner, DeWitte, Schindle and Zellmer, aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

### **Correspondence**

#### **Invitation to Global Warming Solutions Event**

The Mayor reported Polar Explorer Will Seger will be at the Bresnan Arena from 7-8:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 10, 2007 for a public forum entitled "Global Warming Solutions." Members of the Council are invited to attend this event.

#### **Open the Meeting to the Public for the First Time**

The Mayor opened the meeting to the public for the first time with no one appearing.

### **Staff Reports**

#### **City Planner**

##### **Hiring of Intern**

Planner Fischer updated the Council regarding their request that staff hire an intern to conduct a survey of rental units' available parking spaces. An intern has been hired who is in the process of conducting the survey of available parking spaces. This survey will take a month or more and once it is completed, staff will report to the Council.

#### **City Administrator**

##### **Revised Landscape Plan for Reserve Park**

Administrator Sande presented a revised landscape plan for Reserve Park outlining the berm plantings, the location of the pavilion, playground equipment and parking lot. The parking lot is determined to be too small and will be expanded to the north. Some discussion was held regarding opening the park to the north and west to make it more inviting for future subdivisions and to include a sidewalk into the park. Administrator Sande reported the cost of maintaining and operating the fountains would be \$.40 to \$.50 per hour or \$1,000 to \$1,500 per year each over the life cycle of the unit. The Council also requested diagonal parking for Reserve Park be included in the LorRay Drive street improvement plans.

##### **Res. No. 91-07 Declaring Surplus Equipment**

Administrator Sande presented a list of equipment to be declared surplus and recommended Unit #481, 1978 Chevrolet 1-ton Cube Van from this list of equipment be sold to Boy Scout Troop #29 for \$1.00.

**Council Member DeWitte moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to approve the sale of Unit #481, 1978 Chevrolet 1-ton Cube Van to Boy Scout Troop #29 for \$1.00. Vote on the motion: Steiner, DeWitte, Schindle and Zellmer, aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

**Council Member Schindle moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to adopt Resolution No. 91-07 Declaring Surplus Equipment. Vote on the Resolution: Steiner, DeWitte, Schindle and Zellmer, aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

### **Schools and Conferences**

**Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member DeWitte, to approve actual and necessary expenses for the following schools and conferences:**

1. Bituminous Street 1 Certification, Mankato, January 28-29 for Assistant Construction Inspector.
2. Bituminous Street 2 Certification, Dakota County Technical College, February 5-6, for Assistant Construction Inspector.
3. IIMC Region VI Meeting and Education Session, Bloomington, January 18-19, for Clerk and Deputy Clerk.

**Vote on the motion: Steiner, DeWitte, Schindle and Zellmer, aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

### **Finance Director**

#### **Res. No. 92-07 Approving Consent Assessment Agreement – 739 Page Avenue**

Finance Director Mork presented the Consent Assessment Agreement for 739 Page Avenue in the amount of \$2,374.45 for curb box replacement at 739 Page Avenue. This assessment will be for a ten-year period at 7.00% interest. **Council Member Schindle moved, seconded by Council Member DeWitte, to adopt Resolution No. 92-07 Approving Consent Assessment Agreement for curb box replacement at 739 Page Avenue. Vote on the motion: Steiner, DeWitte, Schindle and Zellmer, aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

### **Report on Property Tax Trends**

In response to a resident's appearance at the October 15, 2007 Council meeting where he expressed concerns about recent increases in his property taxes, Finance Director Mork presented information clarifying the impact of tax law changes. Since major revisions to the property tax system were adopted by the 2001 Legislature, a history of the property taxes from 2000-2007 for this resident's parcel along with two additional example parcels were prepared to clarify the impact of tax law changes.

The Finance Director also presented a recap of the levy base for 2002-2007 outlining the amount of Local Government Aid, General Fund Tax Levy and total levy base from 2002 to 2007. The net change in certified Local Government Aid was a decrease of \$719,000, a net increase of \$1,189,832 in the General Fund Tax Levy and a net change in the levy base of \$470,832. The last chart presented by the Finance Director outlined services provided by funding source showing the 2007 General Fund Levy was \$2,486,493 or 50%, the 2007 Local Government Aid was \$1,606,057 or 32%, and all other revenue of \$921,295 or 18%.

The Council requested staff prepare an article recapping the above information for the upcoming *City News & Views*.

**Update on Air Truck Project**

Finance Director Mork updated the Council on donations pledged or received to date and expenditures to date for the new air truck. Donations pledged or received total \$81,000 and expenditures to date including payments made directly by the Fire Department total \$80,947.05. Signage on the air truck will recognize contributors to the project. The Mayor and Council thanked all contributors and thank-you letters have been sent.

**Report from Council Members****Council Member Steiner****North Mankato Taylor Library Report**

Council Member Steiner reported the North Mankato Taylor Library surpassed last year's total annual circulation on Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup> and hit a record on October 29<sup>th</sup> of 133,577 items check out to date in 2007. Projected total circulation for 2007 is 160,000. The Library Director credits the increase in materials purchased and the library staff's commitment to excellent customer service for the increase in the number of items checked out.

**Report from Mayor**

The Mayor and three other CGMC Mayors met with House Minority Leader Seifert last week and discussed the sales tax bill and transportation issues.

The Mayor reported 12 Mayors from metro and out-state cities met with the Governor and encouraged him to call a special session before December 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Mayor reported seeing a vehicle go through the intersection at the corner of Center and Belgrade while the crossing guard had the flag out for school children to cross. Staff will contact Express Personnel and request the crossing guard take the license numbers of any vehicles going through the intersection and endangering pedestrians.

**Open the Meeting to the Public for the Second Time**

The Mayor opened the meeting to the public for the second time with no one appearing.

**Bills and Appropriations**

**Council Member Schindle moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to approve all bills and appropriations in the amounts of \$124,888.25 and \$511,731.63. Vote on the motion: Steiner, DeWitte, Schindle and Zellmer, aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. on a motion by Council Member Steiner, seconded by Council Member DeWitte. Vote on the motion: Steiner, DeWitte, Schindle and Zellmer, aye; no nays. Motion carried.

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Mayor

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City Clerk