

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the North Mankato City Council was held in the Municipal Building Council Chambers on January 4, 2010. 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, Norland and DeWitte, City Administrator Sande, Finance Director Mork, City Clerk Gehrke, Engineer Rippke, Attorney Kennedy and Planner Fischer. Absent: Council Member Schindle.

Approval of Minutes

Council Member DeWitte moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to approve the minutes of the Council Workshop of December 21, 2009 and the Council meeting of December 21, 2009. Vote on the motion: Steiner, Norland, DeWitte and Zellmer, aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Correspondence

Letter from MnDOT Commissioner Sorel

Mayor Zellmer presented a response to Commissioner Walz and Representative Morrow regarding the usage of the special appropriations for T.H. 14. Commissioner Sorel gave assurance the money would be released for its intended purpose, to acquire needed right-of-way in the vicinity of the proposed interchange with CSAH 41. The Mayor will be following up with Congressman Walz on the other special appropriation for this project.

Public Hearing, 7 p.m. – Amending Code of Ordinances

Mayor Zellmer opened the public hearing to consider amending the Code of Ordinances. A notice of public hearing was published in the official newspaper and the Affidavit of Publication was included in the Council packet. Planner Fischer presented a summary of the changes (Exhibit A) during 2009 noting all ordinances adopted by the Council during 2009 are included in the amendments to the Code of Ordinances. He reported the proposed changes to the Code of Ordinances were reviewed by the Council at their December 21, 2009 Workshop and changes requested by the Council have been incorporated into Exhibit A. There being no one appearing before the Council, the Mayor closed this portion of the meeting.

Ord. No. 30, Fourth Series, Amending Code of Ordinances

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to adopt Ord. No. 30, Fourth Series. Vote on the Ordinance: Steiner, Norland, DeWitte and Zellmer, aye; no nays. Motion carried.

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.

Nicollet County Board Actions

Mayor Zellmer reported that Administrator Sande and City staff members will be attending the Nicollet County Board meeting on Tuesday, January 5, 2010 in an effort to have the Nicollet County Board re-evaluate the costs of the ARMER radio system. Administrator Sande reported this is a very expensive undertaking and believes the necessary changes to the radio system could be accomplished with a number of changes to the current system at a lesser cost.

Staff Reports**City Administrator****Res. No. 01-10 Designating Official Newspaper**

Administrator Sande presented Resolution No. 01-10 designating an official newspaper for the City of North Mankato for 2010 legal announcements and publications. Where permitted, announcements and publications will be placed on the City's web site. **Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member DeWitte, to adopt Resolution No. 01-10 Designating *The Mankato Free Press* as the official newspaper for the City of North Mankato. Vote on the Resolution: Steiner, Norland, DeWitte and Zellmer, aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

Res. No. 02-10 Designating Depositories for City of North Mankato

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member DeWitte, to adopt Resolution No. 02-10 designating the following banks as City depositories: Valley Bank, US Bank, Wells Fargo, First National Bank Minnesota, Pioneer Bank, Voyager Bank, Community Bank of Vernon Center, Minnstar Bank NA, TCF Bank FSB, Wells Federal Bank FSB, Northern Star Bank and United Prairie Bank. Vote on the Resolution: Steiner, Norland, DeWitte and Zellmer, aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Res. No. 03-10 Setting Gas Mileage Reimbursement Rate

Administrator Sande presented Resolution No. 03-10 setting the gas mileage reimbursement rate at \$0.50, which is the standard mileage rate for reimbursement of business mileage set by the federal government effective January 1, 2010. **Council Member DeWitte moved, seconded by Council Member Norland to adopt Resolution No. 03-10 setting the gas mileage reimbursement rate at \$0.50 effective January 1, 2010. Vote on the Resolution: Steiner, Norland, DeWitte and Zellmer, aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

Property/Casualty Insurance Dividend

Finance Director Mork reported the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust notified the City of a property/casualty insurance dividend in the amount of \$31,380 for 2009 from a total 2009 premium of \$135,209. A historical recap of the premiums paid and dividends received for the period 2000-2010 shows a net premium increase of \$13,649 from 2000 to 2009.

Conversion of Remaining Semaphores to LED

Administrator Sande reported the City Electrician has provided an updated estimate of the cost to convert the remaining semaphores to LED bulbs. The total cost of the conversion together with the replacement of some older pedestrian crossing lights amounts to approximately \$15,000. He reported the Finance Director estimates an annual savings of approximately \$2,500 in electrical costs. An amount of \$10,000 for LED replacements was budgeted in the 2010 Budget, however, staff is requesting authorization to make this expenditure from the remaining funds available in the 2009 Budget. **Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member DeWitte, to authorize expenditure from the 2009 Budget in the amount of \$15,000 for conversion of the remaining semaphores and older pedestrian crossing lights to LED bulbs. Vote on the motion: Steiner, Norland, DeWitte and Zellmer, aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

Update on Library Construction Project

Administrator Sande reported the expansion to the North Mankato Taylor Library is nearly complete with only a few remaining items on the punch list. It will be necessary to complete the outside items when weather permits. He reported the total change orders for this project are less than 2.00% of the project bid.

Set January 23, 2010 for Grand Opening Event of Taylor Library Expansion

Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to set January 23, 2010 for the Grand Opening Event of the Taylor Library Expansion. Vote on the motion: Steiner, Norland, DeWitte and Zellmer, aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Report from Mayor

Mayor Zellmer reported he would be attending the T.H. 14 Partnership meeting on Monday, January 11, 2010. Congressman Walz was planning to attend this meeting; however, Steve Murphy will be attending in his place.

Mayor Zellmer reported he will be moderating the State candidate forums for transportation and Local Government Aid.

Mayor Zellmer asked for clarification of the holiday garbage and recycling pick up. Administrator Sande reported there was a failure to communicate and the recycling was collected by City crews on Monday.

Open the Meeting to the Public for the Second Time

Kim Spears, 916 South Avenue

Kim Spears, 916 South Avenue, appeared before the Council and requested clarification of the \$50,000 loan to G & M Schmit, LLC for Minnesota Truck & Tractor. Administrator Sande reported this is a low-interest loan from the Port Authority Revolving Loan Fund for construction of the new building for Minnesota Truck & Tractor. He clarified that the funds in the Port Authority Revolving Loan Fund came previously from grants from the Department of Employment and Economic Development and accumulated interest earnings and therefore are not derived from City of North Mankato tax dollars.

Bills and Appropriations

Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to approve all bills and appropriations in the amounts of \$342,306.10 and \$178,273.34. Vote on the motion: Steiner, Norland, DeWitte, Schindle and Zellmer, aye; no nays. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m. on a motion by Council Member Norland, seconded by Council Member Steiner. Vote on the motion: Steiner, Norland, DeWitte and Zellmer, aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Mayor

City Clerk