

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 15, 2010. Mayor Zellmer called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. The following were present for the meeting: Mayor Zellmer, Council Members DeWitte, Steiner and Norland, Administrator Sande, Finance Director Mork, Planner Fischer and City Clerk Gehrke.

**Mark Dehen**

Mark Dehen appeared before the Council and reported a number of local business representatives and North Mankato citizens have been meeting to discuss current events as they apply to the City of North Mankato and its future. He stated this group would like to offer their experience and contacts and serve as a resource for the City of North Mankato providing insight, networks and access to resources. Council Member Norland reported she heard from several sources that Greg Kutcher called the City Administrator's honesty into question at their first meeting. Kutcher responded it was the attitude of looking at change that was called into question. Mayor Zellmer gave background information reporting the City of North Mankato had no identity in Greater Mankato Growth (GMG) and their slogans kept North Mankato out of it. The Mayor reported the cost of services in North Mankato are not going up, taxes are going up because of Local Government Aid cuts. The Mayor said the North Mankato CVB was started to do what is best for the City. In response to Dehen's statement that the advisory committee could meet in private, Mayor Zellmer reported all meetings involving three or more City Council Members are public meetings. He reported the City of North Mankato is open to working with the City of Mankato. Mayor Zellmer reported staff will contact the group about setting up any future meetings.

**2009 Sentence-to-Serve Report**

Administrator Sande presented a report reflecting 5,792 hours worked for the City during 2009 by the Sentence-to-Serve personnel. The hours included work at the compost site, street, water and park departments, with the majority of hours worked at the Recycling Center. He thanked the Sentence-to-Serve personnel for their work.

**New Environmental Mandate**

Administrator Sande reported new mandates are being proposed by the Legislature to include what type of cleaning supplies can be used in all public buildings.

**Recycling Report**

Administrator Sande presented a recap of the appliances and electronics cost for the three-year period 2007 through 2009. Costs have increased in 2009 because suppliers had met their quota for taking back a certain number of electronics. Finance Director Mork will prepare a recap of income from electronics.

**Stop Signs at LorRay and James**

After some discussion about the new stop signs at the intersection of LorRay Drive and James Drive, Mayor Zellmer stated he sees no reason to refer this item to the Traffic & Safety Committee. He requested traffic counts be done at this intersection in late May before school is out.

**Project Update**

Administrator Sande reported a public hearing for annexation of Nicollet County Right-of-Way Plat No. 26 comprising 102.90 acres will be held at tonight's Council meeting. Since the County Attorney has not yet filed the Condemnation procedure, the City Attorney will advise the Council to open the public hearing and continue it to the April 5<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

Administrator Sande reported the City Engineer is working on plans for the Wall Street extension project and the bike and pedestrian trail project.

The Mayor reported trails will be discussed at the ATP meeting on March 25, 2010.

**Budget Issues**

The Mayor requested staff prepare a list of reserves in each budget category prior to the next Workshop.

Council Member DeWitte was approached by Dick Lyons requesting the skating rink at Spring Lake Park be turned north/south and that a bituminous base be installed in order to make a better sheet of ice. Administrator Sande reported the Mankato Area Hockey Association is helping maintain the sheet of ice at Spring Lake Park. Administrator Sande reported Local Option Sales Tax dollars can be used for improvements in Spring Lake Park.

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

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Mayor

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City Clerk