

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 April 1, 2013. Mayor Dehen 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 Dehen, Council Members Freyberg, Spears and Norland, City Administrator Harrenstein, Finance Director Thorne, City Clerk Gehrke, Attorney Kennedy, Engineer Malm and Planner Fischer. Absent: Council Member Steiner.

Approval of Agenda

Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Freyberg, to approve the agenda as presented. Vote on the motion: Freyberg, Spears, Norland and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Council Member Spears moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to approve the minutes of the Council meeting of March 18, 2013. Vote on the motion: Freyberg, Spears, Norland and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Correspondence

Partners for Affordable Housing

The Mayor reported over \$65,000 was raised during the Partners for Affordable Housing event and he thanked all those who participated.

“Circle of Friends” Sculpture

The Mayor reported a pledge card for pledging a donation to purchase the “Circle of Friends” sculpture from the CityArt Sculpture Walk will be placed in the City utility bill. If sufficient funds are raised to purchase the sculpture, it will be placed in front of the North Mankato Taylor Library.

Open the Meeting to the Public for the First Time

Barb Church, 102 E. Wheeler Avenue

Barb Church, 102 E. Wheeler Avenue, appeared before the Council and expressed her concerns about what she heard at the previous Council meeting. She reported that her copy of the City Code states the Central Business District (CBD) is for high-density shopping with emphasis on pedestrian traffic and specifically limits multi-family residential uses to 12 units per structure. Ms. Church also spoke of the Joint Powers Agreement with surrounding communities, the Comprehensive Plan and the advice to prospective residents to research zoning in the area they may purchase a home. Ms. Church also spoke of the three projects voted on at the last meeting and she got the impression there was selective enforcement of the City Code.

Nicollet County Board Actions

Mayor Dehen reported the Nicollet County Board adopted a Resolution Approving the MnDOT Master Partnership Agreement No. 03200 which encourages the Minnesota Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign a bill that brings adequate funding to Minnesota’s statewide transportation system.

Consent Agenda

Council Member Spears requested policy discussion on two items listed on the Bills and Appropriations. This will be addressed under his portion of the meeting. **Council Member Freyberg moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes:**

- A. Bills and Appropriations.
- B. Res. No. 24-13 Approving Donations/Contributions.

Vote on the motion: Freyberg, Spears, Norland and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Staff Reports

City Planner

Res. No. 25-13 Accepting Feasibility Report and Ordering Plans and Specifications for Project No. 13-05, Caswell North Soccer Fields, Phase 2

Planner Fischer presented a preliminary engineering report for the second phase of the Caswell North Soccer Field development. He reported Phase 1 included grading, utilities, lighting, electrical, irrigation and seeding at a cost of \$580,000 with the Mankato Area United Soccer Club contributing \$150,000. Phase 2 of the project is scheduled for 2013 and includes bleachers, fencing, parking lot and trails at an estimated cost of \$396,000. Phase 3 of the project would consist of an additional parking lot and the wear course. Planner Fischer reported that as part of the Phase 2 project, a concession/restroom building is planned and the City has received verbal commitments of donations for the block exterior, roof and trusses. Using these donated materials City crews would construct the building. Administrator Harrenstein reported this action is to order the plans and specifications and the soccer fields are the top priority for dedicated revenues. He reported it is not the intent to borrow for this project but rather this project would be from funds on hand. Council Member Spears requested the amount of the engineering costs for this project. It was reported the engineering cost for the project is \$22,000. Council Member Spears continued that Benson Park should hold a greater priority for two reasons. First, the Benson Park project was first in the queue and it is important to put some completion on projects before we start on others. Second, he considers the soccer fields a Tier 3 project since they will be used by a minority of the population. He also stated that going forward all maintenance and operations should be taken over by the interested agency. Council Member Freyberg stated the project is in the ground and the Council knew it was a three-phase project when it was approved and it has the blessing of the School District which donated the land for the soccer fields. Mayor Dehen reported the Mankato United Soccer Club has donated \$150,000 for the fields and another \$100,000 for the lights. He also stated the revenue generated from fields will go toward maintenance of the fields. Mayor Dehen reported that the City has submitted a request for a Legacy grant in the amount of \$450,000 for Benson Park improvements. Council Member Spears reported he has asked for a summary of the revenue generated from Caswell Park and has not received proof the City has made money from Caswell Park. He stated these are nice projects but have intangible benefits. Council Member Norland reported we have made the last payment for Benson Park land. **Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Freyberg, to adopt Resolution No. 25-13 Accepting the Feasibility Report and Ordering Plans and Specifications for Project No. 13-05, Caswell North Soccer Fields, Phase 2. Vote on the Resolution: Freyberg, Spears, Norland and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

City Administrator

2012 Year-End Police Department Report

Administrator Harrenstein asked Chief Boyer to present the 2012 Year-End Police Department Report. Chief Boyer reported property crimes were down and domestic crimes were up for 2012. Administrator Harrenstein thanked the Police Reserves for the many hours they donate to the City.

City Engineer

Res. No. 26-13 Entering into Master Partnership Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT Agreement No. 03189)

Engineer Malm reported the Master Partnership Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT Agreement No. 03189) is an update to the continuing agreement to enter into work orders with MnDOT without Council approval for emergency road work at a limit of \$100,000. In response to a question, Engineer Malm reported the City Administrator is the one authorized to enter into the work orders with MnDOT. **Council Member Freyberg moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to adopt Resolution No. 26-13 Entering into Master Partnership Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT Agreement No. 03189). Vote on the Resolution: Freyberg, Spears, Norland and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

Res. No. 27-13 Adopting Policy for Enhancement of Bicycle Facilities within the City of North Mankato

Engineer Malm reported this item was postponed from the previous Council meeting to allow for the City Engineer to review the Bicycle Commission Action Plan map and for research regarding which streets were designed Municipal State Aid (MSA) routes and would require compliance with the rules for MSA streets. In summary, the Engineer reported several of the streets indicated as proposed bicycle routes are designated MSA streets. He reported several areas of the streets are not wide enough to accommodate on-street bicycle facilities in both directions as well as the current configuration of thru-lanes and parking lanes. The rules allow three types of on-street bicycle facilities: Shared Lanes (SL), which are standard width traffic lanes with no bike lane striping that bicycles share with vehicles; Wide Outside Lanes (WOL), which are wider traffic lanes with no bike lane striping that bicycles share with vehicles; and Bicycle Lanes (BL), which are striped lanes separate from traffic and parking lanes specifically designated for bicycles. The requirements for when and where these different types of facilities are allowed, and how they are configured depends on the functional classification, traffic volume and speed limit. SL is only allowed when speeds are 30 mph or less and traffic volumes are less than 1,000 vehicles per day. Engineer Malm reported for the streets being considered in this case, the speed limits are all 30 mph, and the traffic volumes are all over 1,000 vehicles per day, so SL is not an option; and therefore WOL or BL are the only options. On Lee Boulevard and Belgrade Avenue, the volumes are high enough that only BL are allowed. He presented the existing conditions and the requirements for on-street bicycle facilities in both directions, SL, WOL or BL, for each street, assuming the allowance of on-street parking is not changed from its current status. Engineer Malm also reported that based on his discussions with MnDOT State Aid staff and his experience, he believes the rules are clear that if the routes are designated as bicycle facilities on a map or with roadway signage or pavement markings, they must meet the State Aid requirements. **Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Freyberg, to adopt Resolution No. 27-13 Adopting Policy for Enhancement of Bicycle Facilities within the City of North Mankato. Vote on the Resolution: Freyberg, Spears, Norland and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.** The Council requested recommendations from the Street Department regarding signage and striping.

Report from Council Members

Council Member Freyberg

Council Member Freyberg reported he attended an All Seasons Arena Board meeting on Friday, March 22, 2013. He reported that North Mankato is being slated for a new sheet of ice. The Mankato Area Hockey Association (MAHA) has done a good job doing a needs assessment for ice time for youth and adult hockey and figure skating. He reported by 2015 the demand will exceed available ice time. Mayor Dehen reported a meeting has been scheduled with Nicollet County Board Members to discuss why Nicollet County left the All Seasons Arena Board and to ask for their participation. Council Member Freyberg reported a study will be completed regarding a multi-sports

complex at an estimated cost of \$40,000. Mayor Dehen reported the multi-sports complex will be an agenda item at a future Council Workshop.

Council Member Spears

Council Member Spears stated that Caswell Park does not cash flow now and lends to the argument that sports facilities do not make money. He referenced the City of Vadnais Heights and suggested the Council study what is going on there. He stated that taxes are paid to the school district and he likes the All Seasons Arena model where the people using the facility pay for the improvements and maintenance.

Council Member Spears addressed two items listed on the Bills and Appropriations: 1) Express Personnel which is for payment of school crossing guards, and 2) Mankato Public Schools for transportation to the North Mankato Taylor Library for a special program. He stated he believes these items should be paid for by the school district.

Report from the Mayor

Proclamation – Barbershop Harmony Week April 7-13, 2013

The Mayor read a proclamation for Barbershop Harmony Week April 7-13, 2013 noting the Riverblenders Barbershop Group is performing their annual show on April 11, 2013 at Crossview Covenant Church, 2000 Howard Drive West.

Civil War Monument

The Mayor reported he has received notice the Civil War Monument located at Lincoln Community Park will be restored. The Lincoln Park Civil War Monument is No. 14 on the Trail for Heroes map.

**Open the Meeting to the Public for the Second Time
Barbara Church, 102 E. Wheeler Avenue**

Barbara Church, 102 E. Wheeler Avenue, appeared before the Council and asked when the debt study would be finished. She also asked if the packets previously appeared on the screen during the meeting. Administrator Harrenstein reported he would respond to Ms. Church's questions via email.

Gary Marti, 1670 Castle Drive

Gary Marti, 1670 Castle Drive, appeared before the Council and spoke of the artesian well that at one time fed Spring Lake and kept it from freezing the fish in the lake during the winter. He stated he would be able to come within a few feet of where the well is located and asked if the City could get it working and have a fountain in this area. Mr. Marti suggested the sale of paver bricks to help pay for the well.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. on a motion by Council Member Norland, seconded by Council Member Freyberg. Vote on the motion: Freyberg, Spears, Norland and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Mayor

City Clerk