

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Council Workshop of the North Mankato City Council was held in the Municipal Building Council Chambers on November 17, 2014. Mayor Dehen called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. The following were present for the meeting: Mayor Dehen, Council Members Norland, Freyberg, Spears and Steiner, Administrator Harrenstein, Finance Director Thorne, City Clerk Van Genderen, Planner Fischer and Public Works Director Swanson.

Comprehensive Plan: Chapter 6: Transportation

City Planner Fischer reported this Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan was prepared by Bolton and Menk. Administrator Harrenstein stated the most important statement in Chapter 6 is that “the City will only support options for improvement within this corridor that do not restrict access at the TH 169/Webster Avenue intersection from that which presently exist.” The Mayor stated that some discussion has occurred concerning making 169 stop free, but no firm plans have been presented.

Comprehensive Plan: Chapter 7: Public Utility

This portion of the Comprehensive Plan was prepared by Bolton and Menk. Mayor Dehen stated Well No. 9 would use the Mount Simon aquifer. Administrator Harrenstein reported the plans were approved by the State.

Comprehensive Plan: Chapter 10: Downtown Redevelopment

WSB and Associates prepared the Downtown Redevelopment Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan. Council Member Norland stated there is a good option for downtown parking that will be discussed at the Council Meeting later tonight. Council Member Spears stated he wanted to know what buildings need to be filled. Administrator Harrenstein stated there was one vacant lot, and some buildings were underutilized. Council Member Freyberg stated one of the objectives in the plan was adequate parking, however businesses need to pay for their own parking. He further stated parking is an asset for a business and if the business fails to purchase or pay for parking than their business will fail and the City needs to explore revenue options to pay for parking. Administrator Harrenstein stated options could include a special benefit tax. Mayor Dehen stated most businesses on top of the hill have their own stand-alone parking lots, but the staff could be directed to explore revenue options. Council Member Spears stated he was in support of the idea of exploring revenue options.

Comprehensive Plan: Chapter 11: Community Design

WSB and Associates prepared the Community Design Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan.

City Planner Fischer stated the Comprehensive Plan would be completed soon and the entire plan presented to the Council. Mayor Dehen requested the entire Comprehensive Plan be presented to the public for public comment. City Planner Fischer stated the Comprehensive Plan would be placed on social media and the City website for public review.

Five- Year Capital Improvement Plan, 2015-2019

Administrator Harrenstein reported after presenting an overview of the CIP at the November 3, 2014, Council Meeting one major change occurred, which was the inclusion of a

ladder truck. Administrator Harrenstein stated Fire Chief Tim Pohlman, Assistant Chief Inman, Station 1 Captain Zwaschka and Station 2 Captain Diefer were also in attendance. Fire Chief Pohlman stated the ladder truck was 32 years old and recently needed several repairs and spent time in the shop. The truck is a critical backup to the Mankato Fire Department and they are our backup. This relationship helps maintain a good ISO, but we cannot rely on Mankato because in order to maintain the ISO rating, protection needs to be within 11/2 miles. Administrator Harrenstein stated that ISO ratings are discussed when speaking with prospective businesses. Mayor Dehen stated he was hopeful a quality used vehicle could be located. Council Member Norland stated if a quality vehicle could not be located it may be necessary to purchase a new ladder truck. Council Member Freyberg stated it needs to be a part of the CIP.

Finance Director Thorne presented a PowerPoint of the Capital Improvement Plan, 2015-2019. Director Thorne compared the 2015-2019 CIP with the 2014-2018 CIP. In the General Fund the park improvements annual allocation increased \$14,000 per year and the Pavement Management Plan implementation increased expenditures by \$200,000 annually. The Water Fund added repair for pumps #5 and #8 in 2018 and 2019 for \$130,000, and the rehabilitation of filter at plant 1 was added in 2017 for \$350,000. The Sewer Fund added the Marvin Lift Station rehabilitation for \$80,000 in 2018. Capital Facilities had a cost reduction of \$20,000 in 2016 with the removal of a Street Sweeper while a loader and roller were added in 2019 for a total of \$180,000. GO Bonds/Construction Fund/Equipment Certificates added a 75' Ladder Fire Truck in 2016 for \$250,000. Council Member Freyberg stated the number was low. Administrator Harrenstein stated once the discussion included a used truck the price dropped. Finance Director Thorne stated several items from the 2014 CIP were either initiated or completed, including a financial computer system, Old Belgrade Hill Ravine Project and Well #9. Several items including Standby Power from Water II to Fire II, Wheeler Corp Station, Levee recertification, and driveway into Tower Boulevard on Tower Dr. were removed from the 2014-2018 CIP into operations. Council Member Spears stated once the items were removed from the CIP they may or may not be completed based on fund availability. Mayor Dehen stated the CIP was understandable and transparent.

Other Business

Administrator Harrenstein reported a memo concerning the invasive species buckthorn would be provided to the Council. He stated the staff noticed an infestation in City green ways throughout parts of the City. Staff would be addressing the buckthorn issue once they are current with tree trimming efforts.

There being no further business, the Council workshop was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk