

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 December 21, 2015. 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 roll call: Mayor Dehen, Council Members Spears, Steiner, Norland and Freyberg, City Administrator Harrenstein, Finance Director Thorne, Attorney Kennedy, City Planner Fischer, and City Clerk Van Genderen. Absent: Public Works Director Swanson.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland to approve the minutes of the Council meeting of December 7, 2015. Vote on the motion: Spears, Steiner, Norland, Freyberg and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to approve the Consent Agenda which included:

- A. Bills and Appropriations.
- B. Approved Parade Permit for MS Society 5K Walk, Spring Lake Park, on April 30, 2015 from 9 am to 12 noon.
- C. Res. No. 95-15 Setting Council Meeting Dates for Year 2016.
- D. Res. No. 96-15 Declaring Costs to Be Assessed for Municipal Charges-512 Range Street.
- E. Res. No 97-15 Declaring Costs to be Assessed for Municipal Charges-306 Nicollet Avenue.

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

Public Comments

Barb Church, 102 Wheeler Avenue, appeared before Council and stated Full Circle Organics is offering the public complementary organics recycling on Saturdays in December. Organics drop-off is at 221 Lamm Street in Mankato from 9 am to Noon.

Business Items

Res. No. 98-15 Approving the General Fund Budget and Auxiliary Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2016. Finance Director Thorne stated the General Fund Budget was set at \$7,711,083 and the Auxiliary Fund Budget was set at \$11,500,214 for a total 2016 Budget of \$19,211,297. Council Member Spears moved to amend the budget and remove funding to Business on Belgrade. With no second to the motion Mayor Dehen dismissed the motion. **Council Member Freyberg moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner to adopt Res. No. 98-15 Approving the General Fund Budget and Auxiliary Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2016. Vote on the motion: Spears, Steiner, Norland, Freyberg and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

Res. No. 99-15 Approving the 2015 Tax Levy Collectible in 2016. Finance Director Thorne stated the 2015 Tax Levy Collectible in 2016 was \$5,794,404. **Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland to adopt Res. No. 99-15 Approving the 2015 Tax Levy,**

Collectible in 2016. Vote on the motion: Spears, Steiner, Norland, Freyberg and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Res. No. 100-15 Approving the Capital Improvement Plan 2016-2020. Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner to adopt Res. No. 100-15 Approving the Capital Improvement Plan 2016-2020. Vote on the motion: Spears, Steiner, Norland, Freyberg and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Consider Safe Routes to School Funding Applications. City Engineer Dan Sarff appeared before Council and stated there were two primary sources of funding for Safe Routes to School infrastructure improvements. The MnDOT SRTS Grant Program which is a competitive statewide solicitation with set-aside federal funds to support the SRTS Program. Selected projects will receive 80 percent of the eligible project costs reimbursed with federal funds and will be funded in 2016. The MnDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) which is a competitive grant opportunity for local communities and regional agencies to fund projects for pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Selected projects would be funded in Fiscal year 2020 with up to 80 percent of the eligible project costs reimbursed with federal funds. City Engineer Sarff reviewed the information for the Dakota Meadows funding application and the Garfield Elementary/Monroe Elementary funding information reporting on the specific improvements that would be included with each project. City Engineer Sarff reported the Dakota Meadows SRTS grant and TAP funding applications had an estimated SRTS infrastructure funding (80% of Construction Cost) of \$248,768 with an estimated local share between the City and ISD 77 (20% of Construction Cost plus Engineering) of \$124,384. The Garfield Elementary/Monroe Elementary TAP funding application had an estimated TAP Federal Fund (80% of Construction Cost) of \$257,692 with the estimated local share between the City and ISD 77 (20% of Construction Cost plus Engineering) of \$128,846. Council Member Spears stated he was concerned that the trail along Avalon Park did not have a crosswalk at its intersection with Carlson Drive. City Engineer Sarff agreed and the plan could be modified. Council Member Norland stated she approved of the Safe Routes to School Plan as a means to improve bicycle and walking paths to school. Administrator Harrenstein stated the plan was not included in the 2016 Budget and before the City would move forward with the improvements City staff would present Council with amendments to the Budget. City Engineer Sarff reported these were competitive grants and funding was not guaranteed. Council Member Spears stated the project would not move forward unless funding was guaranteed. Administrator Harrenstein stated if the project was funded a crosswalk across Carlson Drive would be included in the project.

Res. No. 101-15 Authorizing Transportation Alternatives Program Funding Application for Dakota Meadows Safe Routes to School Project. Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner to adopt Res. No. 101-15 Authorizing Transportation Alternatives Program Funding Application for Dakota Meadows Safe Routes to School Project. Vote on the motion: Spears, Steiner, Norland, Freyberg and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Res. No. 102-15 Authorizing Safe Routes to School Funding Application for the Dakota Meadows Safe Routes to School Project. Council Member Freyberg moved, seconded by Council Member Norland to adopt Res. No. 102-15 Authorizing Safe Routes to School Funding Application for the Dakota Meadows Safe Routes to School Project. Vote on the motion: Spears, Steiner, Norland, Freyberg and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Res. No. 103-15 Authorizing Transportation Alternatives Program Funding Application for the Monroe Elementary/Garfield Elementary Safe Routes to School Project. Council Member Freyberg moved, seconded by Council Member Norland to adopt Res. No. 103-15 Authorizing Transportation Alternatives Program Funding Application for the Monroe Elementary/Garfield Elementary Safe Routes to School Project. Vote on the motion: Spears, Steiner, Norland, Freyberg and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Consider Setting Public Hearing for 7 pm on January 4, 2016 to Discuss the Complete Streets Resolution. Administrator Harrenstein reported the City of North Mankato has a commitment to pedestrian safety and pursues active and passive recreational opportunities for its citizens. The Complete Streets resolution presented requires consideration of safe, convenient and comfortable travel and access for users of all ages and abilities regardless of their mode of transportation. The resolution identifies standards of design and maintenance, as well as exceptions to the policy. Administrator Harrenstein stated the Council has discussed the complete streets idea during the discussion of the reconstruction of Cliff Court where it was decided there was no need for sidewalk accommodations, this ability would remain. Administrator Harrenstein reported the recommendations for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure would now be included in the feasibility reports. Council Member Spears stated he was concerned about adopting the policy as it would add engineering costs to the feasibility studies and the City could continue an informal approach and look at each improvement project individually. Mayor Dehen stated the requested action was setting a Public Hearing. Council Member Freyberg stated information was missing from policy. He read a paragraph from Chapter 6 of the Mankato Area Planning Organization (MAPO) which stated that with the “adoption of a complete streets policy, Mankato is committing to provide bicycle and pedestrian facilities on all new and reconstructed streets. What constitutes a pedestrian and bicycle facility may require additional definition in order to avoid confusion and heightened expectations. For example, pedestrians and bicycles can be adequately accommodated by allowing them to share the street with vehicles on low-volume residential streets. MAPO may want to define what conditions, such as traffic volumes/speeds, truck volumes or topographic conditions, which will trigger the need to construct designated pedestrian and bicycle facilities.” City Engineer Sarff stated the exceptions for the street was more of a local transportation concern and not big picture as with MAPO. Council Member Freyberg indicated it would be good to institute parameters. Council Member Spears indicated he was hesitant to support a special policy when bicycles already have the ability to use the roads. **Council Member Freyberg moved, seconded by Council Member Norland to approve Setting a Public Hearing for 7 pm on January 4, 2016 to Discuss the Complete Streets Resolution. Vote on the motion: Steiner, Norland, Freyberg and Dehen aye; Spears nay. Motion carried.**

City Administrator and Staff Comments

Administrator Harrenstein wished the Council, Staff, and North Mankato Citizens a Merry Christmas and stated he is looking forward to another successful and productive year in North Mankato.

Mayor and Council Comments

Council Member Steiner wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Council Member Norland wished everyone Happy Holidays and thanked Administrator Harrenstein, Finance Director Thorne, City Planner Fischer and Attorney Kennedy for their hard work.

Appointment of Boards and Commissions. Mayor Dehen reported the list of new and returning Commission and Board members was included in the packet. Council Member Spears

moved to amend the appointments and appoint Matthias Leyrer to the Planning Commission instead of Jason Beal. He stated Matthias would be a better fit because of his passion about urban affairs. Mayor Dehen reported he discussed the appointments with staff. With no second to the motion, the motion failed. **Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Freyberg to approve the appointments to the Boards and Commissions. Vote on the motion: Steiner, Norland, Freyberg and Dehen aye; Spears nay. Motion carried.**

Res. No. 104-15 Approving City Council Committee Assignments. Council Member Norland made a motion to add participation on the Region Nine Area Inc. (RNAI) to the list with Council Member Norland as the City representative. **Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Freyberg to amend the Committee Assignments to include Region Nine Area Inc. Vote on the motion: Spears, Steiner, Norland, Freyberg and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried. Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland to adopt Res. No. 104-15 Approving City Council Committee Assignments. Vote on the motion: Spears, Steiner, Norland, Freyberg and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

Certification of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. Mayor Dehen reported the City received a certificate of achievement for the comprehensive annual financial report(s) for the year(s) ended December 31, 2014.

Mayor Dehen reported Coffee with the Council will be held on January 9th at 10 a.m. at the Realtor's Association of Southern Minnesota office located at 2115 Rolling Green Lane.

Public Comments

None.

There being no further business, on a motion by Council Member Freyberg, seconded by Council Member Steiner, the meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk