

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 7, 2015. Mayor Dehen requested a moment of silence in remembrance of Pearl Harbor and to honor all who have served and serve in the United States Military. 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 Freyberg, Spears, Steiner, and Norland, City Administrator Harrenstein, Finance Director Thorne, Attorney Kennedy, City Planner Fischer, City Clerk Van Genderen, and 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: Freyberg, Spears, Steiner, Norland and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Freyberg to approve the minutes of the Council meeting of November 16, 2015. Vote on the motion: Freyberg, Spears, Steiner and Dehen aye; no nays. Abstain: Norland. Motion carried.

Public Hearing-7 p.m., 2016 Budget and 2016-2020 Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan.

Mayor Dehen opened the meeting to the public. Barb Church, 102 Wheeler Avenue, appeared before Council and indicated she appreciated the work completed on the proposed 2016 Budget. Ms. Church requested information on the deferred income from special assessments and an update on the Sales Tax Collection. Ms. Church stated her concerns about City staff receiving an across the board 3% raise if the raise is considered a merit raise.

Finance Director Thorne presented a PowerPoint presentation to review the proposed 2016 Budget and 2016-2020 Capital Improvement Plan. Finance Director Thorne reported City staff projects the maximum levy proposed on September 21, 2015 of \$5,794,404 will be the final levy. Finance Director Thorne indicated the 2016 Final Budget increased \$319,131 over the 2015 Adopted Budget while the overall revenue increased \$85,986 over the 2015 Adopted Budget. Finance Director Thorne reviewed the Five-Year Capital Improvement plan.

Council Member Spears requested clarification on the \$22,500 donated for the North Mankato Fun Days fireworks that was moved to the endowment fund. Finance Director Thorne indicated there was a tracking note that was on the wrong line of the budget and the money was not moved to the endowment fund. Council Member Spears requested clarification on the revenue from Carl Mulder. Council Member Steiner indicated Carl Mulder received a loan to rehabilitate an historical home. Council Member Spears questioned the increase from \$39,000 to \$59,488 for Health Insurance. Administrator Harrenstein reported the increase reflected an anticipated increase in premiums. Administrator Harrenstein stated Health Insurance premiums did not increase but the numbers were not adjusted to reflect the savings in order to maintain a financial cushion. Council Member Spears requested clarification on why the amount of anticipated overtime increased from \$10,000 to \$14,000 between 2014 and 2015 and was not decreased in 2016. Finance Director Thorne indicated there was a lot of overtime in 2015 due to the computer software upgrade and she anticipated continued overtime due to managing the Affordable Care Act reporting. Council Member Spears stated Agency disbursement still included \$10,000 donated to Business on Belgrade and he opposes the distribution. Council Member Spears requested an update on the Recycling Fund. Administrator Harrenstein reported City staff was executing a lease and an updated worksheet would be provided. Council Member Spears requested clarification on the work completed with the Storm Water Fund.

Administrator Harrenstein indicated work continued on analyzing the Storm Water Fund. Mayor Dehen reported the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) may force changes to the management of storm water due to increased regulations. Council Member Spears requested clarification on why the Port Authority Economic Development Fund is negative in 2018. Administrator Harrenstein stated the balance of the fund is based on assumptions and the problem will probably be resolved. With no-one appearing before Council Mayor Dehen closed this portion of the meeting.

Consent Agenda

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

- A. Bills and Appropriations.
- B. Res. No. 92-15 Approving Donations/Contributions/Grants.
- C. Approved License Renewals for 2016.
- D. Res. No. 93-15 Declaring Costs to be Assessed for Municipal Charges.
- E. Authorized the Signing of the Labor Agreement Between the City of North Mankato and Law Enforcement Labor Services, Inc. (Local No. 305).
- F. Approved Parade Permit for Monroe Elementary Color Run, Spring Lake Park on Saturday, May 21, 2016 from 8 a.m. to Noon.
- G. Res. No. 94-15 Waiving Waiting Period for Exemption from Lawful Gambling Licenses for LEEP (Leisure Education for Exceptional People).
- H. Bicycle Commission Minutes.

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

Mayor Dehen stated the Bicycle Commission recommends the City of North Mankato pursue a Complete Streets Project & Plan with the assistance of the Transportation Planner for Mankato/North Mankato Area Planning Organization (MAPO). Council Member Spears requested clarification on the recommendation. Mayor Dehen stated there would be no financial obligation from the City and it would allow consistency with Mankato.

Public Comments

Barb Church, 102 Wheeler, 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

Discuss Boulevard Tree Program and Refer to Greenway Conservation Advisory Committee for Review.

Administrator Harrenstein City stated City staff would like to re-introduce the Boulevard Tree Program. The program application was included in the packet and would be referred to the Greenway Conservation Advisory Committee for further review. Administrator Harrenstein indicated the City planned on making 60 trees available for residents to purchase at a discounted rate. Residents may purchase one tree per year at a reduced rate. Each tree would have a one year warranty provided by the contracted company who will plant, mulch and stake the trees as necessary. Council Member Freyberg indicated one of the trees selected for the program, the Hackberry, has been devastated in Southern Minnesota by disease. Council Member Steiner inquired as to the status of the emerald ash borer. Public Works Director Swanson indicated the pest was not in the area but was moving towards North Mankato. Administrator Harrenstein indicated the program would continue the beautification of North Mankato.

City Administrator and Staff Comments

Administrator Harrenstein thanked Business on Belgrade for the Bells on Belgrade event celebrated on December 5, 2015. Mayor Dehen announced the winners for the Bells on Belgrade event: Medallion Hunt Winner was Aidan Reemer, Fire Pit Giveaway was Lynette Cline, Residential Lighting Contest Winners; First Place was 341 Belgrade Avenue, Second Place was 439 Belgrade Avenue, Third Place was 811 Belgrade Avenue, and the Business Lighting Contest Winners; First Place the Nakato Bar and Grill and Second Place was Spinners Bar and Grill.

Administrator Harrenstein stated staff has been in discussion with Minnesota Bicycle Festivals Inc. who runs the North Star Bicycle Festival about bringing the Festival to North Mankato. The North Star Bicycle Festival is a professional bicycling event that promotes cycling and benefits the Special Olympics. Council Member Freyberg indicated the North Star Bicycle Festival would be a worthwhile event to bring to North Mankato. Mayor Dehen stated the Bicycle Commission would willingly help to bring the event to North Mankato.

Mayor and Council Comments

Council Member Freyberg thanked City Planner Mike Fischer and City Engineer Dan Sarff for their work on the MAPO 2015 project.

Council Member Norland stated she attended the Community Education Advisory Committee and encouraged citizens to review the programs available through Community Education.

Mayor Dehen thanked staff for the work on the proposed 2016 Budget.

Public Comments

None.

There being no further business, on a motion by Council Member Freyberg, seconded by Council Member Steiner, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk