

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Council Work Session of the North Mankato City Council was held in the Council Chambers on October 24, 2022. Mayor Dehen called the meeting to order at noon. The following were present for roll call: Council Members Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, City Administrator McCann, Interim Finance Director Ryan, and City Clerk Van Genderen.

NicBluCares

Mary Bliesmer, 2007 Cottage Trail, appeared before the City Council as a team member of NicBluCares. Ms. Bliesmer reported that NicBlueCares would be celebrating its first anniversary. NicBluCares is a part of a Compassionate Community that encourages everyday people to play a more vital role in the care of those experiencing tough times. A portion of NicBluCares is the NicBluCaresNOW Community Resource Directory. This online directory aims to fill the gaps in the community's safety net by connecting people in need with the resources in Mankato and North Mankato. Ms. Bliesmer reported that the NicBluCares team is requesting \$2,500 from both Mankato and North Mankato to continue the reach of the NicBluCaresNOW Community Resource Directory. Mayor Dehen stated that the City would review its charitable gaming funds and consider adding NicBluCares to the contribution list.

Draft ASA Joint Powers Agreement

City Administrator McCann reported that the attached draft of the All Seasons Arena Joint Powers Agreement laid out the terms and responsibilities of its members. The ASA Joint Powers Agreement included Article 4.5 in Governance which addresses voting, and he noted that a quorum of the board must consist of both Mankato and North Mankato when managing financial commitments. Article 5 addressed the Powers of the Board, noting that 5.7 addressed proportionate expense, based on the population in the 2020 Federal Decennial Census for each Party in School District 77. The ASA Joint Powers Agreement currently has the following members: the City of Mankato, the City of North Mankato, Blue Earth County, Eagle Lake, and the City of Skyline. He noted that Blue Earth County anticipates accepting rural Blue Earth and Madison Lake costs. The City of North Mankato would be responsible for 21.22% of the price. City Administrator McCann noted there is anticipation that Eagle Lake and Skyline will leave the agreement. He stressed that Blue Earth County anticipates covering the additional expense. Council Member Oachs said that even if Blue Earth County does not cover Eagle Lake and Skyline, if the cost is divided proportionately, the increase to North Mankato would be 1%. Article 8 addresses withdrawal from Joint Powers Agreement, which requires a one-year notice.

City Attorney Chris Kennedy stated that clarification between the proportionate expense chart and the language needs to be made. Currently, the chart reflects actual census numbers while the language addresses ISD 77 enrollment. He also stated that renewal language should be included, whether every five years or ten.

City Administrator McCann reviewed the potential budget impact for a proposed project of \$7 million if all partners remain in the agreement or if Eagle Lake and Skyline leave the agreement. The City's portion of the annual bond will be \$1,756,883 if Eagle Lake and Skyline are no longer partners or \$1,663,763 if they remain. City Council Member Oachs noted that the current decision is whether the City will remain a partner in the ASA; financial obligations will be finalized later.

Mayor Dehen suggested that once staff can confirm participation in the ASA Board, the agreement be brought back for final approval.

Proposed 2023-2027 CIP Schedule

Interim Finance Director Ryan reported that the proposed 2023-2027 CIP Schedule is a multi-year planning instrument identifying the needs and financing sources for vehicles, equipment, public infrastructure, and amenities over the next five years. The CIP is also split into two parts cash expenditures and bonding. The cash expenditures are for equipment and small-scale projects, while the bonding section is for large-scale infrastructure and recreational projects. The 2023-2027 CIP is \$44,571,500 which is \$773,250 less than the 2022-2026 CIP. The CIP includes moving the Caswell Indoor Recreation Project from 2022 to 2023 and removing the improvements from Wheeler Avenue and Page Avenue. The estimates for Somerset Drive and Howard Drive both increased. The \$25.9 million is allocated to \$883,000 for equipment replacement, \$949,500 for pavement management and park improvements, \$490,000 for the Water Fund, \$295,000 for the Sewer Fund, and \$23,316,000 for bonded projects for Somerset, Howard/Lor Ray Roundabout, Indoor Recreation.

Interim Finance Director Ryan reported that the Sales Tax 2023-2027 CIP includes the \$17.0 million for the Caswell Indoor Recreation Facility Construction. The project was moved from 2022 to 2023 due to the State Legislature not completing a bonding bill. The 2023 Parks budget includes \$370,000 in capital funds. Of that amount, \$150,000 is allocated for Lady Bug Lake Improvements at Benson Park and \$125,000 for a shelter at Pleasantview Park. The Streets 2023 budget includes \$600,000 in street funding and includes pavement management for part of North Ridge Dr, Oak Terrace Drive, and other streets. The Water Fund 2023 budget includes \$490,000 in water capital funding, with \$350,000 allocated for a filter rehab at Plant 2. The Sewer Fund 2023 budget includes \$295,000 in sewer capital funding, with \$120,000 earmarked for the Northridge force main replacement. Mayor Dehen requested clarification on the work being completed at Lady Bug Lake. City Administrator McCann reported that a babbling brook would be added to help circulate the water and improve water quality. City Administrator McCann also noted that the replacement of the Public Works Building is scheduled for 2026.

Mayor Dehen requested clarification on the plan for the Indoor Recreation at Caswell. City Administrator McCann reported that the City included the total \$17 million for 2023. The City may want to return to the state and increase the request from \$8.5 million to \$10 million. Mayor Dehen suggested an update on the anticipated costs to build the facility, followed by requesting the legislature to increase the Local Sales Tax from the \$9 million that the State Legislature approved to the total \$15 million approved by voters.

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to adjourn the Council Work Session at 12:30 pm.

Mayor

City Clerk