

COUNCIL WORK SESSION NOVEMBER 8, 2021

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Council Work Session of the North Mankato City Council was held in front of City Hall on a tour bus on November 8, 2021. Mayor Dehen called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm. The following were present for roll call: Council Members Norland, Whitlock, Steiner, Mayor Dehen, City Administrator Harrenstein, Finance Director McCann, Public Works Director Host, City Engineer Sarff, and City Clerk Van Genderen. Absent: Council Member Oachs.

Receive Information on Dem-Con Waste & Recycling Management Contract Renewal.

Finance Director McCann reported that the three-year contract with Dem-Con is through March of 2022. Still, the City must give a 90-day notice to Dem-Con concerning the City's intent to continue the contract with the one-year renewal option, negotiate a new 3-year contract or terminate the agreement. If the City determines to continue with the one-year renewal option, there would be an annual increase of \$1.00 tipping fee. The average tipping fee per month for 2021 is \$8,264, with an average current monthly rebate of \$11,130. The City receives a rebate based on the recycling of materials, and in 2021 the City has currently received rebates totaling \$25,784. Finance Director McCann reported that since entering into the contract with Dem-Con, the City had experienced a significant decrease in their disposal contract spending. In 2019, the City spent \$56,787 to Dem-Con for the tipping fee and \$44,000 for the West Central Sanitation transfer fee. In 2020, the City spent \$38,318 for the tipping fee and \$42,433 for the transfer fee. Finance Director McCann reported if the City continued with Dem-Con future projections based on historical average estimates and rebates holding steady, 2022 would amount to the total spending of \$34,670, 2023 would have a total cost of \$43,287, and 2024 would come in at \$52,457. Finance Director McCann reported that one option would be to consider going to Eureka Recycling in Minneapolis, with West Central providing the transportation. He reported a one-year contract with Dem-Con would allow the City to have the flexibility to switch processors if desired. Still, there would be a price change exposure annually and the need to revisit the contract every year. The three-year contract would guarantee pricing and rates, which helps the City budget.

Council Member Whitlock requested the City contact Eureka Recycling in Minneapolis for a quote. Council Member Norland also liked the idea of additional information. Mayor Dehen stated he likes the staff's recommendation but would like to contact Eureka to ensure the City is taking the best option. Mayor Dehen requested a comparison of waste tonnage since changing to single-stream recycling. City Administrator Harrenstein reported staff would contact Eureka and provide the City's waste tonnage.

Tour of 2022 Improvement Projects

City Administrator Harrenstein reported the tour allows the City Council to jointly review the McKinley Avenue project and consider if sidewalks should be considered in the plan. City Engineer Sarff reported in 2016 the North Mankato City Council adopted the Complete Streets Plan, which included sidewalk guidelines. McKinley Avenue is included in the plan with proposed sidewalks. City Engineer Sarff reported McKinley Avenue is 31 feet to 34 feet wide, and the current plan is to make the street consistent at 32 feet. The wider road creates a narrower boulevard if sidewalks are installed. He commented that the sidewalks that have been installed in similar reconstructions are 5 feet wide. City Engineer Sarff reported that a number of trees would need to be removed to install the sidewalk, based on their location.

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The tour went down Jefferson Avenue, Tyler Avenue, and Harrison Avenue, all recent reconstructions. A discussion was held that all the reconstructions had included sidewalks on both sides of the street. Mayor Dehen commented that sidewalks should be included to maintain consistency and provide pedestrian mobility. Council Member Whitlock commented on the swim facility, located at the end of McKinley Avenue, that providing pedestrian mobility and access to the park would be an asset.

The tour traveled down Garfield Avenue, which is on the CIP for reconstruction. Comments were made that the curb and gutter would need to be installed along with a storm sewer system. City Administrator Harrenstein commented that Page Avenue and Grant Avenue are also on the CIP for outlying years. Public Works Director Host commented that the pavement on Page Avenue is not in too bad of condition. Still, there have been multiple issues with the underground utilities with water main and sewer main breaks.

The tour traveled to the upper north through Nottingham Drive, which was overlaid in 2020, along with stormwater improvements which included connecting 15 sump pumps. Public Works Director Host also commented that the City has been working with both BENCO and Excel to change the street lights to LED. He noted other streets are set for mill and overlay, including Nottingham Drive and Queens Court.

The tour traveled on Howard Drive, to the recently completed Countryside Drive, and then onto North River Drive. City Engineer Sarff reported the reconstruction project includes the construction of a 40-foot-wide bituminous street with a concrete curb and gutter on both sides and adjusting the grade to the adjacent ground. The project also consists of an 8ft wide path on the west side and a 5-foot-wide sidewalk on the east side of the road. A discussion was held about the trail and connecting the trail directly with Benson Park.

Somerset Drive was discussed as it is currently a gravel road; the road will be used for construction access for Lor Ray Drive and is in the 2023 plans for a complete improvement. The tour traveled through the North Port Industrial Park, and discussion was held concerning the wetlands in the area, the use of Port Authority property for a concrete batch plant that the City received compensation for the land, and that the Fastenal Project is currently on hold as the bids for the project came in over 50%. Hence, the Port extended the purchase agreement deadline to the end of 2021.

The tour stopped by the top of the Old Belgrade Hill to see where the utility access trail ends and discuss the possibility of making the utility access trail a recreational use trail.

Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to adjourn the Council Work Session at 1:18 pm.

Mayor

City Clerk