

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 April 18, 2016. Mayor Dehen called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. The following were present for the meeting: Mayor Dehen, Council Members Norland, Freyberg, and Spears, Administrator Harrenstein and City Clerk Van Genderen. Absent: Council Member Steiner.

Sound Permitting, Enforcement and Public Complaints.

Council Member Freyberg stated the City Council has been approached by a resident concerning sound levels during park events. In response to the concerns raised by the resident Council Member Freyberg suggested changes to the audio permit application process and the enforcement of the permit. He stated people enjoy the park in different ways and the Council should review the policies in place. Administrator Harrenstein indicated the goals were achievable and City Staff is in the process of reviewing the permitting process by updating the sound permit process and ensuring contact information for someone in charge at the event and responding to noise concerns with a decibel reader to ensure compliance. City staff is also working to ensure audio equipment is positioned to decrease noise directed at the bluff.

Council Member Freyberg stated it could be beneficial to consider moving events from Spring Lake Park to other parks. Council Member Freyberg addressed Mr. Tom Hagen the concerned resident stating not only does he live on the bluff but the wind often plays a factor in noise carrying in the direction of his home.

Mayor Dehen indicated staff continues to address the issue through changing the application process and ensuring an onsite event contact. He stated it may be difficult to move large events to Benson Park as the facilities are not ready.

Council Member Norland reported pine trees had been planted in response to noise complaints to act as a buffer and maybe additional trees could help buffer the sound.

Mayor Dehen inquired if Tom Hagen, 927 Lake Street, would like to address the Council as he was the reason the meeting was called. Tom Hagen appeared before Council and stated he appreciated the meeting and stated he was willing to see if the solutions presented by staff would work. He requested staff arrange a test with speakers prior to an actual event. Mayor Dehen reported staff could see to arranging the test.

Other Business

None.

There being no further business, the Council workshop was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk