

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 October 19, 2020. City Administrator Harrenstein on March 31, 2020, under MN Statute Section 13D.021, declared the use of electronic meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic. 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 remotely through Zoom for roll call: Council Members Whitlock, Oachs and Steiner, City Attorney Kennedy, Community Development Director Fischer, Finance Director McCann, and Public Works Director Host, present in the Council Chambers for roll call: Council Member Norland, Mayor Dehen, City Administrator Harrenstein, and City Clerk Van Genderen. Citizen participation was available through teleconference.

Approval of Agenda

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to approve the agenda with Agenda Item #13A Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities presentation moved to before the Public Hearing. Vote on the motion: Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Approval Council Minutes from the October 5, 2020, Council Meeting.

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to approve the minutes of the Council meeting of October 5, 2020. Vote on the motion: Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Proclamation

WHEREAS, North Mankato, Minnesota celebrates local small businesses and the contributions they make to our economy and community; and

WHEREAS, small businesses employ more than 49 percent of all businesses with employees in the United States; and

WHEREAS, 93 percent of consumers in the United States agree it is important for people to support small businesses they value in the community; and

WHEREAS, North Mankato, Minnesota supports our local businesses that create jobs, boost our local economy and preserve neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, many small businesses have faced financial hardship due to the pandemic-containing with closures, decreased revenues, and difficulty accessing capital; and

WHEREAS, North Mankato businesses continue to fight to survive and thrive and are adapting to the new marketplace, integrating technology, developing creative ways to connect with customers, and repurposing to serve their communities innovatively; and

WHEREAS, North Mankato are proud to support our local small businesses, their employees, and the neighborhoods they serve. Together we can help our local small businesses succeed by shopping locally.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Mark Dehen, Mayor of the City of North Mankato, in the State of Minnesota hereby proclaim November 2020 as:

"Small Business Month"**Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities-Scott McMahon**

Scott McMahon from the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities presented an update on the Coalition and their work on behalf of greater Minnesota cities. He reported the Coalition works for 102 cities across the state. The Coalition expected the State legislation to have a short session with a \$1.5 billion budget surplus and a bonding bill. COVID-19 changed those expectations by preventing in-person legislative meetings, 4 special sessions, a budget deficit of \$2.4 billion, civil unrest, and the bonding bill tied up. Mr. McMahon reviewed the purpose of the CARES Act Funding, which was to provide federal Coronavirus Relief by providing funds to the state, local and tribal governments. The City of North Mankato will receive \$1,059,209 in CARES Act Funds. During the 5th special session, Mr. McMahon reported a bonding bill of \$1.37 billion in bonding, \$1.9 billion total was passed. The bill includes tax policy, supplemental budget, and cost offsets. The Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities was lobbying for a \$1.5 billion bill that included \$200 million for wastewater and water infrastructure, \$20 million for Greater Minnesota Business Development Public Infrastructure Grant Program, \$20 million for child care facilities grants, \$10 million for public infrastructure to support housing and \$200 million for local roads & bridges. The house and senate passed \$1.37 billion that included \$269 million for wastewater and water infrastructure, \$8.2 million for Greater Minnesota Business Development Public Infrastructure Grant Program, Child care grant program created, \$100 million for public infrastructure to support housing, and \$100 million for local roads and bridges. Mr. McMahon reported the Coalition would continue to lobby to remove PFAS (Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) from drinking water. The Coalition continues to lobby for additional funds to support child care in Minnesota. He noted the Coalition would continue to lobby to have the Local Government Aid paid on time and full. The City of North Mankato is scheduled to receive \$1,955,972 in 2021. Mr. McMahon invited Council Members and staff to upcoming Coalition events. Council Member Norland thanked the Coalition for their work, especially for their continued work into research, prevention, and removal of PFAS in the water supply. City Administrator Harrenstein commented that North Mankato staff will be joining several committees and thanked the Coalition for their continued advocacy for Greater Minnesota.

Public Hearing, 7 p.m. Proposed Assessment for Project No. 19-07 DEF Dakota Meadows/Safe Routes to School/Howard Drive Improvement.

City Engineer Sarff reported Project No. 19-07 DEF Safe Routes to School Project replaced sidewalks, improved trails, and added additional trails to improve walking and biking routes to Dakota Meadows and added two signaled mid-block pedestrian crossings. The Howard Drive overlay was completed in conjunction with widening the street to allow turn lanes near the school. The total for the project was \$828,000. The only property being assessed was the school district for \$80,000. The school is aware of the assessment, and all legal notices have been completed.

With no one appearing before Council, the Mayor closed the Public Hearing.

Consent Agenda

Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to approve the Consent Agenda.

- A. Bills and Appropriations.
- B. Res. No. 82-20 Approving Donations/Contributions/Grants.
- C. Approved Audio and Park Permit for Mankato Walk to Defeat ALS at Spring Lake Park on April 24, 2021, from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

- D. Approved Parade Permit for Bells on Belgrade on December 5, 2020, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- E. Res. No. 83-20 Amended Resolution No. 72-20 A Resolution Vacating Newcastle Drive.
- F. Received and Approved the Recommendations from October 13, 2020, Traffic & Safety Committee Meeting.

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

Public Comments Concerning Business Items on the Agenda

None.

Business Items

Res. No. 84-20 Adopting Assessment for Dakota Meadows Safe Routes to School/Howard Drive Improvement Project No. 19-07 DEF.

Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to Adopt Res. No. 84-20 Adopting Assessment for Dakota Meadows Safe Routes to School/Howard Drive Improvement Project No. 19-07 DEF. Vote on the motion: Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Receive NW Growth Area Plan.

City Administrator Harrenstein reported the NW Growth Area Plan outlines an exciting future of development, and the report provides options for the growth of the area. The presented plan is a draft, and the staff intends to take the plan out for public engagement.

City Planner Lassonde reported the plan began in 2019, and in January of 2020, a Market Analysis was completed, which the Council reviewed. The study area comprises the interchange area at US Trunk Highway (TH) 14 and Nicollet County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 41. Access to highway 14 connects the area to the region and has influenced the industrial park's growth. The purpose of the plan is to achieve a shared vision, research the area market, communicate to property owners and developers the City's plan for targeted, market supported growth and development, and provide a supportive land use framework to guide the Future Land Use Map in the North Mankato Comprehensive Plan. The Guiding Principles of the plan include effectively planning new residential, commercial, and industrial development, consider multi-family residential options in proximity to new commercial/industrial development when appropriate, continue the growth of the Northport Industrial Park, utilize the Market Area Analysis when considering types of uses that could be supported in the Northwest Growth Area, incorporate supportive neighborhood commercial uses in key locations, provide walkability, and consider appropriate locations for new parks to serve new residential development. Scenarios A, B, C, and D were presented to Council. City Planner Lassonde reported City staff would present the scenarios and the plan during community engagement sessions for feedback from the community. A discussion was held concerning the feasibility of a grocery store and other retail options. Mayor Dehen thanked City Planner Lassonde for his work and stated plans like this one and the Comprehensive Plan have been beneficial to the City as the Comprehensive Plan helped guide the Huntley-Wilmarth Power line around North Mankato so the area can be developed.

Open Forum

None

City Administrator and Staff Comments

City Administrator Harrenstein thanked Library Director Heintz for her work planning and executing the Jack-O-lantern walk in Bluff Park. He reported the count of attendees was 2800.

City Administrator Harrenstein commented that a citizen engagement event would occur on October 20, 2020, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. to discuss the proposed Food Truck Ordinance.

City Administrator Harrenstein requested guidance on the next Council Work Session if Council would like to review the budget materials and a nuisance property. Council and Mayor reported they would like to review the budget materials and not the nuisance property on October 26, 2020, at noon.

Public Works Director Host reported fall drop-off had approximately 60% of the materials dropped off than in spring.

Mayor and Council Comments

Council Member Oachs thanked Library Director Heintz for her work on the pumpkin walk and staff for their work at fall drop off.

Council Member Whitlock thanked State Senator Frentz and Representative Brand for their work on the bonding bill and the City's \$2 million received for Caswell Park improvements. He stated this was the first step in moving forward with Caswell Park Indoor Recreation.

Council Member Norland noted that she has continued to see motorized scooters and skateboards around town, and Council may need to do additional research.

Mayor Dehen thanked the staff for their work during the fall drop-off and the pumpkin walk.

At 8:07 p.m. on a motion by Council Member Norland, seconded by Council Member Oachs, the Council Meeting was adjourned.

Mayor

City Clerk