

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 5, 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 Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to approve the agenda with the addition of allowing a resident to speak on an item in the Consent Agenda. Vote on the motion: Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

**Approval Council Minutes from the September 21, 2020, Council Meeting.**

**Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to approve the minutes of the Council meeting of September 21, 2020. Vote on the motion: Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

**Approval Council Work Session Minutes from September 28, 2020, Council Work Session Meeting.**

**Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to approve the minutes of the Council Work Session Meeting of September 28, 2020. Vote on the motion: Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

**Public Hearing, 7 p.m. Amending City Code Chapter 155 Allowing Administrative Lot Splits**

Community Development Director Fischer reported the proposed City Code language creates a process for staff to approve administrative lot splits. The process would be used in cases where minor lot line adjustments are made. An example would be when someone buys two residential lots and combines them into one lot. Currently, if this were to occur, the property owner would need to hire a surveyor, replat the existing subdivision, have it reviewed by the Planning Commission and City Council and then record the plat with the County. This process is timely and expensive, based on the surveyor's cost to prepare the recording documents. Under the administrative lot split process, an applicant would need to hire a surveyor to create a Certificate of Survey reviewed by staff and then recorded at the County. Additionally, the applicant would need to have a surveyor install new property monuments (property pins) as part of the process. Since City Code requires all new lots to have utility easements platted around the perimeter of all lots, any lot line adjustment would likely need a utility easement vacation. It would be the applicant's responsibility to petition the City to vacate any easement and assume any cost to relocate any existing above-ground or below-ground utility. Community Development Director Fischer reported that the Planning Commission recommended the City Code revisions, but requested that language be added that any relocation of lot lines would not affect more than three lots.

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

**Request for the use of Golf Carts on City Streets**

Mayor Dehen recognized resident Bill Young, 717 Nicollet Avenue, who appeared before Council and stated he was interested in Council considering allowing golf carts on City streets. He reported golf carts could be beneficial for those who have difficulty with mobility to travel around town. Mr. Young stated he had found reports that say that golf carts are safer than bicycles. He stated the City should license and regulate golf carts to increase mobility and independence for North Mankato residents.

**Council Member Oachs moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to remove the September Traffic & Safety Committee Meeting from the Consent Agenda to allow discussion on allowing Golf Carts on the Streets. Vote on the motion: Oachs, Steiner, Norland, and Dehen aye; Whitlock nay. Motion Carried.**

**Consent Agenda**

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

- A. Bills and Appropriations.
- B. Res. No. 79-20 Approving Donations/Contributions/Grants.
- C. Res. No. 80-20 Appointing Election Judges.
- D. Res. No. 81-20 Authorizing Application for MnDOT Landscape Partnership Application.

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

**Receive and Approve the Recommendations from the September Traffic & Safety Committee Meeting.**

Community Development Director Fischer reported the Traffic and Safety Committee reviewed the request to allow the use of golf carts on City streets and recommended denial based on public safety concerns, enforcement issues, and the lack of demonstrated need to use golf carts as a form of transportation. Attorney Kennedy commented that the issue had been reviewed in by previous Councils. A few of the concerns that have prevented the use of golf carts are the lack of seatbelts, lights, and if limitations are placed on golf cart travel, enforcement of those restrictions. Council Member Norland reported she was interested in additional information, especially in light of seeing a three-wheeled recumbent bike with a motor driving down the street. Council Members Steiner and Oachs also expressed interest in additional information. City Administrator Harrenstein commented that staff would prepare additional information for review in early spring.

**Council Member Oachs moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to Approve all Recommendations Except the Golf Cart's Denial from the September 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**

**Ordinance No. 133, Fourth Series Amending Chapter 155: Subdivision Regulations-Administrative Lot Splits.**

Mayor Dehen requested clarification if an administrative lot split could have been used last year when a resident wanted to purchase a small portion of land from their neighbor to allow them to install a pool. Community Development Director Fischer reported that would be one example. City Administrator Harrenstein reported the process is standard procedure in other cities, including Mankato, New Ulm, and St. Peter. The process would not only save money for the property owner but time. **Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to adopt Ordinance No. 133, Fourth Series Amending Chapter 155: Subdivision Regulations- Administrative Lot Splits. Vote on the motion: Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

**Open Forum**

Bill Young, 717 Nicollet Avenue, appeared before Council and commented that Rochester does not allow turn signals on their golf carts because they did not want side by sides on their roads.

**City Administrator and Staff Comments**

City Administrator Harrenstein reported staff has communicated with the City Council that the Spring Lake Park Report, Caswell Park, and the TIF Districts that were scheduled for the October 12, 2020, Council Work Session will be taken up along with the CIP at the October 26, 2020, Council Work Session. Staff would be speaking one-on-one with Council Members concerning the tax levy and additional budget information.

City Administrator Harrenstein reported leaf-pick-up has begun and will continue until all leaves are picked up or prevents collection.

Public Works Director Host reported leaf pick up has started. Countryside Drive reconstruction is moving forward with the construction of the base of the road. Junk drop-off will occur on October 8-11, 2020.

**Mayor and Council Comments**

Council Member Norland encouraged residents to get out and vote and thanked City Clerk Van Genderen for her work and dedication to providing a safe and secure election.

Council Member Norland encouraged residents to mulch their leaves for natural fertilizer.

Council Member Oachs encouraged residents to get out to the Farmer’s Market as the season is coming to an end.

Council Member Oachs encouraged residents to visit the Library and attend some of the Library’s activities.

Council Member Whitlock commented that the powerline at the corner of Range Street and Belgrade Avenue had been moved, which improves the line of sight at the intersection.

Mayor Dehen commented that Night to Unite is October 6<sup>th</sup>, and the Library would be hosting an event at Storybook Park.

At 7:30 p.m. on a motion by Council Member Norland, seconded by Council Member Oachs, the Council Meeting was adjourned.

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Mayor

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City Clerk