

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 August 17, 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, Finance Director McCann, Community Development Director Fischer, 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 and live stream of the meeting.

**Approval of Agenda**

**Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to approve the agenda. Vote on the motion: Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, Oachs, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

**Approval Council Minutes from the August 3, 2020, Council Meeting.**

**Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Oachs, to approve the minutes of the Council meeting of August 3, 2020. Vote on the motion: Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, Oachs, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

**Approval of Council Work Session Minutes from the August 10, 2020, Council Work Session.**

**Council Member Oachs moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to approve the minutes of the Council Work Session Meeting of August 10, 2020. Vote on the motion: Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, Oachs, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

**Public Hearing, 7 p.m., Hearing on Annexation of 5 Acres of Land Owned by Ronald W. Enzenaur and Linda L. Cattrysse into the City of North Mankato.**

City Administrator Harrenstein reported the 5 acres is located adjacent to the 120 acres that were just annexed into the City and will be developed into The Waters Subdivision (formerly known as Prairie Heights subdivision). The property has a house and outbuilding that are unoccupied.

Mr. Ronald Enzenauer spoke and requested the annexation be completed after he receives his final payment from R.Henry on October 1, 2020. R. Henry is the development company that is developing the Waters Subdivision and is purchasing the 5-acres to continue the development. City Administrator Harrenstein stated the City could wait to finish the annexation process until after the finalization of the sale.

With no one else appearing before Council, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

**Public Hearing, 7 p.m. Hearing to Consider Amending City Code Title IX General Regulations, Chapter 91 Animals and Title XV: Land Usage Chapter 156: Zoning Code Related to the Use of Animals for Prescribed Grazing.**

With no one appearing before Council, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

**Consent Agenda**

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

A. Bills and Appropriations.

- B. Res. No. 66-20 Approving Donations/Contributions/Grants.
- C. Approved Audio Permit for the 1024 North River Drive for a Picnic on September 19, 2020, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- D. Res. No. 70-20 Setting a Public Hearing on the Proposed Vacation of Newcastle Drive.
- E. Res. No. 67-20 to Restrict the Deeds for Bluff Park.
- F. Res. No. 68-20 Waiving a Waiting Period for Exemption from Lawful Gambling License for Holy Rosary Church.

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

**Public Comments Concerning Business Items on the Agenda**

None.

**Business Items**

**Ordinance No. 130, Fourth Series an Ordinance of the City of North Mankato, Minnesota Annexing Land Located in Belgrade Township, Nicollet County, Minnesota Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 414.033 Subdivision 2 (2), Permitting Annexation by Ordinance.**

**Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland to Adopt Ordinance No. 130, Fourth Series an Ordinance of the City of North Mankato, Minnesota Annexing Land Located in Belgrade Township, Nicollet County, Minnesota Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 414.033 Subdivision 2 (2), Permitting Annexation by Ordinance. Vote on the motion: Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, Oachs, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

**Ordinance No. 131, Fourth Series an Ordinance of the City of North Mankato, Minnesota Amending North Mankato City Code, Chapter 91.04, Entitled “Farm Animals” and Adding Chapter 91.20, Entitled “Prescribed Grazing of Noxious and Invasive Vegetation.”**

Mayor Dehen reported that Council Member Norland visited two properties that goats had been used to remove noxious weeds. He commented that Matt Goettl, who runs a goatherd, spoke to them about the process. Goats are placed on the property for 5 or 6 days and then moved. The goats ate vegetation but did not denude the property due to the brevity of time they are allowed to stay on the property. Council Member stated she was satisfied that the goats would remove the buckthorn and appreciated the fact that poisonous herbicides would not be used. A discussion was briefly held concerning the establishment of a fee, but it was decided to determine a fee at a later Council meeting. Council Member Whitlock requested clarification on the oversight of the area by City staff. City Administrator Harrenstein reported the City would conduct pre-site visits, during site visits, and post-site visits to ensure compliance with the ordinance and to review the progress. Council Member Oachs requested clarification on when the goats could be grazing. Mayor Dehen commented that Mr. Goettl suggested goat use two times a year for five to six days at a time to maximize the death of the noxious weeds. He states the timeframe for use would be approximately six months out of the year. Council Member Oachs questioned if there would be concern over odor. Mayor Dehen reported the goats would only be on the property for 5 to 6 days, and the goat droppings were pelletized like a deer, and little odor would emanate.

**Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland to Adopt Ordinance No. 131, Fourth Series an Ordinance of the City of North Mankato, Minnesota Amending North Mankato City Code, Chapter 91.04, Entitled “Farm Animals” and Adding**

**Chapter 91.20, Entitled “Prescribed Grazing of Noxious and Invasive Vegetation.” Vote on the motion: Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, Oachs, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

**Ordinance No. 131, Fourth Series an Ordinance of the City of North Mankato, Minnesota Amending North Mankato City Code, Chapter 156, Entitled “Zoning Code.”**

City Clerk Van Genderen reported Ordinance 131 is to complete the ordinance changes to allow the use of animals for prescribed grazing. Two ordinances needed to be made as two separate chapters were amended.

**Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland to Adopt Ordinance No. 131, Fourth Series an Ordinance of the City of North Mankato, Minnesota Amending North Mankato City Code, Chapter 156, Entitled “Zoning Code.” Vote on the motion: Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, Oachs, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

**Res. No. 69-20 Providing for the Issuance and Sale of \$3,400,000 General Obligation Improvement Bonds, Series 2020B, Pledging for the Security Thereof Special Assessments and Levying a Tax for the Payment Thereof.**

City Administrator Harrenstein introduced North Mankato’s Bond Counsel Tammy Omdal from Northland Securities. Ms. Omdal appeared before Council and reported the City went out and received a bond rating from S&P, which confirmed the cities AA rating. She reported six bids were received at the following:

<b>Bidder</b>	<b>Purchase Price</b>	<b>NET Interest Cost</b>	<b>True Interest Cost</b>
Country Club Bank Prairie Village KS Syndicate: Pioneer Bank	\$3,499,874.45	\$296,272.22	0.9944374%
Piper Sandler & Co. Minneapolis, MN	\$3,479,136.85	\$320,074.16	1.0784822%
FHN Capital Markets Memphis, TN	\$3,479,216.65	\$323,370.68	1.0893731%
Robert W. Baird & Co., Inc. Milwaukee, WI	\$3,473,714.85	\$330,523.64	1.1145515%
Truist Securities, Inc. Nashville, TN	\$3,535,158.20	\$371,981.01	1.2399248%
Raymond James & Associates, Inc. Memphis, TN	\$3,466,892.45	\$389,947.52	1.3107046%

Ms. Omdal noted that the City also received a call from the underwriters, and North Mankato sold well on the market. All of the hard work is paying off.

**Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to Adopt Res. No. 69-20 Providing for the Issuance and Sale of \$3,400,000 General Obligation Improvement Bonds, Series 2020B, Pledging for the Security Thereof Special Assessments and Levying a Tax for the Payment Thereof. Vote on the motion: Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, Oachs, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

**Open Forum**

None.

**City Administrator and Staff Comments**

City Administrator Harrenstein thanked citizens for their patience with the swim facility closure and reported the facility would fully reopen on August 22, 2020.

Public Works Director Host reported Monroe Avenue is moving forward the curb and gutter and asphalt will follow soon. Howard Drive is partially paved, and surveying is beginning for Countryside Drive.

Finance Director McCann reported staff is planning on presenting a broad overview of the budget at the next Council Work Session.

**Mayor and Council Comments**

Council Member Oachs requested an update on fall clean-up. City Administrator Harrenstein commented that the topic could be addressed at the next Council Work Session, which will allow City staff to prepare scenarios.

Council Member Steiner requested mitigation for hillside/bluff erosion. He stated there is concern that some residents are running their sump pump water over the side of the bluff. City Administrator Harrenstein reported the bluffs had been a discussion at the Tuesday development meetings, and Public Works Director Host and himself have personally climbed the bluffs. Incorrect sump pump drainage was discovered, and Public Works Director Host has contacted the homeowner concerning mitigation. Further discussion was held, and City Administrator Harrenstein commented that at a future Work Session, a presentation would be given providing information on the bluffs and mitigation. He noted that the problem might be outside the City's control. A discussion was held concerning continued public education concerning the correct disposal of sump pump and downspout drainage. City Administrator Harrenstein commented that the City recently completed \$800,000 for the Northridge ravine improvements, and a Ravine Maintenance Plan is in place. Council Member Norland encouraged the decimation of ravine erosion best practices. Attorney Kennedy reported he would look into assessment districts for ravines.

Council Member Whitlock commented that the interest rate is excellent and thanked the staff for their direction.

Council Member Whitlock reported he recently requested a two-year water meter readout. He had a new automatic water meter installed. He reported an average monthly savings of \$11.00 and encouraged residents to update their meters.

Council Member Whitlock requested staff to create a food truck ordinance for review. He stated he would like to restrict where food trucks can park to help protect the local businesses. He noted the food trucks should not be able to park within 1000 feet of a business that sells food or alcohol.

At 7:46 p.m. on a motion by Council Member Norland, seconded by Council Member Oachs, the Council Meeting was adjourned to closed session to discuss labor negotiations.

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Mayor

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City Clerk