

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 December 17, 2018. 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 for roll call: Mayor Dehen, Council Members Norland, Freyberg, Whitlock, and Steiner City Administrator Harrenstein, City Attorney Chris Kennedy, Finance Director McCann, Community Development Director Fischer, Public Works Director Host, and City Clerk Van Genderen.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to approve the minutes of the Council meeting of December 3, 2018. Vote on the motion: Freyberg, Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Public Hearing, 7 pm-Stormwater and Annual Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP) Review.

City Engineer Dan Sarff appeared before Council and reviewed the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP). He stated the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) administers the requirements of the federal Clean Water Act in addition to its own State Disposal System requirements. The Stormwater Program includes the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit. The MS4 General Permit is designed to reduce the amount of sediment and pollution that enters surface and groundwater from storm sewer systems. The City's MS4 permit requires the City to develop and maintain a stormwater pollution prevention program (SWPPP) that incorporates best management practices (BMPs). The SWPPP describes the City's plan to meet each of the six Minimum Control Measures described by the permit. The six areas include Public Education and Outreach on Stormwater Impacts, Public Participation and Involvement, Illicit Discharge Elimination, Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control, Post-Construction Stormwater Management in New Development and Redevelopment and Pollution Control and Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations. The six areas are an ongoing effort to maintain water quality. City Engineer Sarff noted the SWPPP has not been updated in recent years in anticipation of a new MS4 permit which will likely include new requirements. He stated they recommend that the SWPPP be reviewed and updated once the new MS4 permit is issued by the MPCA. The MS4 permit includes a requirement that the City provide a minimum of one opportunity each year for the public to provide input on the adequacy of the City's SWPPP.

Mayor Dehen opened the meeting to the public with no one appearing.

Council Member Norland requested clarification on water discharge into the streets. City Administrator Harrenstein noted there are no code restrictions concerning discharge into the streets. City staff is bringing forth code revisions that will incrementally begin to require sump pump discharge into the stormwater drains. He stated staff recognizes the difficulties for some residents because if water is not discharged into the streets, it could potentially lead to flooding in backyards or neighbors' yards. City Administrator Harrenstein stated neighbors could work together to create a backyard drain system.

Consent Agenda

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

- A. Bills and Appropriations.
- B. Res. No. 95-18 Approving Donations/Contributions/Grants.
- C. Res. No. 96-18 Setting Rates and Charges for Municipal Utilities.
- D. Approved On-Sale, Off-Sale, Sunday On-Sale, Cabaret, Mechanical Amusement Devices and Soft Drink Licenses for Circle Inn of North Mankato, LLC, Jeni Bobholz, from January 1, 2019, to December 31, 2019.
- E. Res. No. 97-18 Designating Polling Places for 2019.
- F. Set Public Hearing for 7 pm on January 7, 2019, to Consider City Code Chapter 157 Short-Term Rentals.

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

Motion carried.

Public Comments Concerning Business Items on the Agenda

None

Business Items

Res. No. 98-18 Approving the General Fund Budget and Auxiliary Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2019.

Finance Director McCann reported the final budget was based on discussions held during the budget work sessions.

Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner to Adopt Res. No. 98-18 Approving the General Fund Budget and Auxiliary Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2019.

Vote on the motion: Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, and Dehen aye; Freyberg nay. Motion carried.

Res. No. 99-18 Approving the 2018 Tax Levy Collectible in 2019.

Finance Director McCann reported the total levy is \$6,683,838 which is \$395,000 more than 2018, but it continues to decrease the tax rate. The estimated tax rate will decrease from 52.12% to 51%.

Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner to Adopt Res. 99-18 Approving the 2018 Tax Levy Collectible in 2019. Vote on the motion: Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, and Dehen aye; Freyberg nay. Motion carried.

Res. No. 100-18 Approving the Capital Improvement Plan 2019-2023.

Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner to Adopt Res. No. 100-18 Approving the Capital Improvement Plan 2019-2023. Vote on the motion: Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, and Dehen aye; Freyberg nay. Motion carried.

Res. No. 101-18 Authorizing Funding Application for the Lor Ray Drive/Howard Drive Intersection Improvement Project.

City Engineer Dan Sarff appeared before Council and stated the application is for federal funding available through the Surface Transportation Program (STP) for the improvement of streets and bridges in cities within District 7 with a population greater than 5,000. Selected projects from the current solicitation will be placed on the Statewide Transportation Improvement Project (STIP) and

funded in the Fiscal Year 2023. Up to 80 percent of the eligible project costs will be reimbursed with federal funds.

The City conducted an Intersection Control Evaluation (ICE) in 2016. The ICE recommended that the existing four-way stop intersection be converted to a roundabout to address the traffic congestion and pedestrian safety issues at the existing intersection.

City Engineer Sarff noted the estimated cost is \$1.8 million. The federal funding would cover approximately \$1.2 million which is 80% of the estimated construction cost. The estimated local share would be approximately \$600,000, which is 20% of the estimated construction cost plus engineering and other expenses. The application deadline is January 4th.

Council Member Whitlock noted the intersection could use a roundabout to improve traffic flow especially because of all the kids going to school.

Mayor Dehen requested clarification if the recommendation was consistent with the MPO recommendations. Council Member Freyberg stated it was consistent with their recommendations.

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland to Adopt Res. No. 101-18 Authorizing Funding Application for the Lor Ray Drive/Howard Drive Intersection Improvement Project. Vote on the motion: Freyberg, Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Res. No. 102-18 Ordering Preparation of Report on Improvement Project no. 18-07 ABCDEF Tyler Avenue Improvement Project.

City Engineer Sarff reported the proposed Tyler Avenue Improvement Project is scheduled in the Capital Improvement Plan for 2019. The project would include the 300 Block of Tyler Avenue. It is anticipated that the improvements will include the complete reconstruction of the street, curb & gutter, sidewalk, sanitary sewer, watermain, and storm sewer. The first step in the process is to authorize the preparation of a preliminary engineering report by the City Engineer to evaluate the feasibility of the proposed project by establishing the need for the project, outlining the necessary improvements, providing information on estimated cost, and establishing a project timeline. The resolution authorizes the preparation of the preliminary engineering report. Council Member Whitlock requested the City consider including lighting on the street; he noted no additional lighting was added to Jefferson Avenue after reconstruction, and the street is very dark. Tyler Avenue is very similar to Jefferson Avenue. City Administrator Harrenstein reported the City would try to replace the current Jefferson Avenue pole possibly with remaining funds from the project.

Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner to adopt Res. No. 102-18 Ordering Preparation of report on Improvement Project no. 18-07 ABCDEF Tyler Avenue Improvement Project. Vote on the motion: Freyberg, Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Open Forum

Lucy Lowry, 2263 North Ridge Drive, appeared before Council and stated the City Council is responsible for what occurs at City Council Meetings.

Nick Maxwell, 2290 Balsam Drive, appeared before Council and thanked the Council for allowing the Cub Scouts to participate in the Council meeting by presenting the flags. He reported it fulfilled a requirement and when the boys move onto Boy Scouts, many will enter North Mankato's Troop 29.

City Administrator and Staff Comments

City Administrator Harrenstein wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

City Administrator Harrenstein thanked Council Member Freyberg for his years of service as Council Member. He stated Council Member Freyberg served the citizens and City staff well during his years on the Council. City Administrator Harrenstein noted Council Member Freyberg was an active committee member and served on the Green Space Committee, MAPO, and Intergovernmental Committee to name a few. Council Member Freyberg put in a lot of extra hours serving on those committees.

Finance Director McCann wished everyone Merry Christmas and thanked Council Member Freyberg for his views on the budget.

Public Works Director Host stated the ice rinks would be flooded when temperatures cooperate. He noted the exterior of the warming house is completed and electrical and sheetrock will be completed in the next few weeks.

Mayor and Council Comments

Council Member Whitlock thanked Council Member Freyberg for his time on the City Council noting he will be missed.

Council Member Whitlock reported he was able to watch a portion of Blue Star's new walls being erected and it was exciting to see the development.

Council Member Whitlock wished everyone Merry Christmas.

Council Member Norland thanked Council Member Freyberg for his service.

Mayor Dehen reported he provided Council Members with suggested Council Committee assignments and requested Council Members let him know if they wanted any changes. Assignments will be confirmed at the January 7, 2019 Council Meeting.

Mayor Dehen thanked Council Member Freyberg for his exemplary service to the citizens of North Mankato. "When you and I joined the Council together 8 years ago your prior experience as Mankato Council Member helped build bridges between our two Councils and revitalized the Intergovernmental committee.

Your conservative fiscal approach has helped us decrease the City's debt, restore our AA bond rating and lower our property tax rate, after tonight, by 3.566%, extraordinary when all our surrounding communities have increased their rates. Those same efforts on behalf of the All Seasons Arena facility have stabilized that community partnership and staged it for a successful future.

Your attention to the parks, especially Benson and Bluff is commendable. Thanks to you we have a Greenway Committee to continue and enhance this work going forward.

Your representation of North Mankato during the formation of the Mankato Area Metropolitan Planning organization is also greatly appreciated as it coordinates our area transportation and infrastructure into the future.

You have accomplished this yeoman's work with quiet personal leadership. For that, the citizens, the Council and especially myself commend you on a job well done!"

Council Member Freyberg thanked the North Mankato constituency for their support stating he gave it all that he could for the greater benefit of North Mankato. He thanked residents such as Barb Church, Lucy Lowry, Tom Hagen, and Phil Henry for participating in the government process. He thanked the staff and Council for listening to an alternative opinion. Council Member Freyberg stated

his father used to say you have to earn the right to complain and he stated after earning the right you often discover there is not that much to complain about.

There being no further business, on a motion by Council Member Norland, seconded by Council Member Steiner, the meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk