

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 July 20, 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 pm, asking that everyone join in the Pledge of Allegiance. The following were present remotely through Zoom for roll call: Council Members Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, City Attorney Kennedy, 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. Absent: Finance Director, McCann. 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: Norland, Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Approval Council Minutes from the July 6, 2020, Council Meeting.

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to approve the minutes of the Council meeting of July 6, 2020. Vote on the motion: Norland, Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

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

- A. Bills and Appropriations.
- B. Res. No. 60-20 Approving Donations/Contributions/Grants.
- C. Approved Audio Permit for Watson Wedding at Spring Lake Park Shelter #2 on September 19, 2020, from 8 am to 8 pm.
- D. Approved Audio Permit for St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church at 304 Monroe Avenue, on July 26, 2020, from 9 am to noon.

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

Public Comments Concerning Business Items on the Agenda

None.

Business Items

Res. No. 61-20 Prorating Liquor Licenses for Time Closed Due to State-Mandated Bar Closures During the COVID-19 Pandemic.

City Administrator Harrenstein reported Council briefly discussed on July 6, 2020, a request to prorate 2020 liquor licenses due to the State mandated closure of bars and restaurants for 11 weeks in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. He stated the following licenses would be considered for proration: on-sale, Sunday on-sale, on-sale club, and tap-room on-sale licenses. City Clerk Van Genderen provided an overview of the proration:

Liquor License	License Fee	Prorated Fee	Returned to Owner
On-Sale	\$ 3,750.00	\$ 2,956.74	\$ 793.26
Sunday On-Sale	\$ 200.00	\$ 157.69	\$ 42.31
Tap-Room On-Sale	\$ 300.00	\$ 236.54	\$ 63.46
On-Sale Club	\$ 330.00	\$ 260.20	\$ 69.80

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to adopt Res. No. 61-20 Prorating Liquor Licenses for Time Closed Due to State-Mandated Bar Closures During the COVID-19 Pandemic. Vote on the motion: Norland, Whitlock, Steiner, and Dehen aye; no nays. Oachs abstain. Motion carried.

Accept Trail Loop Map for Inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan Update.

Mayor Dehen reported the map updates the City’s Comprehensive Plan with the new trails that have been installed or are planned for installation. The map includes the additional trails being installed as part of the Dakota Meadow’s Safe Routes to School. The map will also be placed in the kiosks around town and will include bike rack stations, drinking fountains, restroom locations, you are here markers, and a QR code to download the map onto your phone, and local attractions near the trail. As the area is connected to the Minnesota River Valley trail system, the area will become a hub of bicycle tourism. Mayor Dehen commented that the City might consider a naming contest for some of the trails. There may be an opportunity for the City to apply for grant money to assist with the trail development. Transportation Planner from Bolton & Menk Matt Lassonde commented that two maps would be created, one for inclusion in the comprehensive plan and the other a more robust map for inclusion in the kiosks.

Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Oachs, to approve the Trail Loop Map for Inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan Update. Vote on the motion: Norland, Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Open Forum

None.

City Administrator and Staff Comments

Receive North Mankato’s Use of Force Report.

City Administrator Harrenstein reported that over the past few weeks, he has discussed with the Chief of Police the need to hold an open and transparent discussion related to the use of force in the Police Department. He introduced Executive Director of the Greater Mankato Diversity Council Bukata Hayes, who provided advice on the report.

Police Chief Gullickson presented the report and discussed the Police Department’s use of force in the last four years. He said the report is in response to the deadly use of force against George Floyd in Minneapolis. The report looks at how North Mankato responds to calls and how they use force. The report also reviews how the staff is trained, complaints against Police Officers, compliments to the department, and community outreach. In the past four years, there were 107 cases where officers used force, with 63% of the cases involving a subject who was compliant or was passive resistant. The remaining 40 cases involved people who were displaying either active resistance or active aggression toward officers. Thirty-six of those incidents had occurred when North Mankato officers were assisting other local law enforcement agencies. Police Chief Gullickson noted that beginning in 2019, the department began a more consistent effort to identify the race of individuals who were the subject to enforcement action. The difficulty with identifying race is it is not recorded

on a person's driver's license, and officers may need to assume a person's race based on observation, ask a person to identify their race, or out of concern for inappropriately identifying a person's race they will leave it blank on the name record.

Of last year's enforcement actions, 185 of the subjects were white (57%), 17 black (5%), African American of Hispanic/Latino origin 41 (13%), Hispanic/Latino 11 (3%) and "unknown" 65 (20%). North Mankato's population is 88% white, 4% Black or African American, and 4% Hispanic or Latino.

Police Chief Gullickson reported police officers are required to complete continuing education with training including de-escalation, cultural competency, mental health crisis response, and other topics. Police Chief Gullickson noted from 2018 to 2020 the department had eight supervisory reviews of officers where members of the public or supervisors raised concerns about police performance. He noted the department also frequently receives compliments and thanks. The department continues community outreach efforts through school visits and community events.

Executive Director of the Greater Mankato Diversity Council Bukata Hayes appeared before Council and thanked City Administrator Harrenstein and Police Chief Gullickson for the opportunity to participate and the transparency provided by the report.

Council Member Norland thanked the Police Department for their work and how safe working with them has made her feel in the past. She also appreciated the goals of the Police Chief association with the goal of maintaining the sanctity of life.

City Administrator Harrenstein thanked Library Director Heintz for Music in the Park, where more than 300 people socially distanced at Wheeler Park.

City Administrator Harrenstein reported the swim facility continues to attract visitors and is on track to meet financial projections. He noted that the crew of lifeguards, attendants, and concession workers are wonderful.

City Administrator Harrenstein reported Belgrade Frandsen Bank's development would begin in August, and an update will be presented at the next Council Work Session.

City Administrator Harrenstein shared that the Commerce Drive signage is installed.

City Administrator Harrenstein reported the Minnesota Department of Transportation is looking for proposals to relocate the Kerns Bridge, and the City has discussed using the bridge at Benson Park. Additional information will be presented to Council at the next Council Work Session.

Community Development Director Fischer encouraged residents to continue completing the census, and the City as a whole has responded very well.

Public Works Director Host reported work continues on Monroe Avenue and the Dakota Meadows Safe Routes to school.

City Clerk Van Genderen reported election judge recruitment has been going well, and planning continues for a safe, secure election.

Mayor and Council Comments

Council Member Whitlock shared that former Council Member David Pearson passed away and sent his condolences to the family.

Council Member Oachs thanked the North Mankato Police Department for their ongoing community support.

Council Member Norland thanked City staff for continuing to make City parks safe to use.

Council Member Norland requested a discussion on a mask mandate at the next Council Work Session.

Council Member Steiner strongly encouraged residents to use masks and was interested in discussing mask use at the next Council Work Session.

At 7:57 pm on a motion by Council Member Norland, seconded by Council Member Oachs, the Council Meeting was adjourned.

Mayor

City Clerk