

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 June 5, 2017. 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 the meeting: Council Members Whitlock, Steiner, Norland and Freyberg, Mayor Dehen, City Administrator Harrenstein, Finance Director McCann, Attorney Kennedy, Community Development Director Fischer, Public Works Director Swanson and City Clerk Van Genderen.

Approval of Agenda

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to approve an amended agenda that included a presentation by Xcel Energy. Vote on the motion: Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, Freyberg, and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to approve the minutes of the Council meeting of May 15, 2017. Vote on the motion: Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, Freyberg, and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to approve the minutes of the Special Council meeting of May 25, 2017. Vote on the motion: Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, Freyberg, and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Xcel Energy Presentation

Trisha Rosenfeld and Tim Carsgaard from Xcel Energy appeared before Council and presented information concerning a joint project between Xcel and the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). The proposed project is the construction of a 345 KV Transmission Line to support a growing need for transmission of energy and enabling additional low-cost electric generation to reach customers. Ms. Rosenfeld indicated open houses would be conducted along with direct mailings informing customers in the affected area, which included North Mankato and Nicollet County, of the proposed line construction. Xcel wanted to inform the City before the open houses began.

Public Hearing, 7 p.m. – Consider Amending City Code Chapter 154.12 Sign Regulations.

Community Development Director Fischer reported that in April of 2017, the Planning Commission reviewed a variance request from Commerce Drive Dental to allow both a ground sign and a pylon sign at 2040 Commerce Drive. The Planning Commission recommended denial of the variance request and directed staff to propose amendments to the Sign Code. The proposed amendments allow one ground and one pylon sign subject to certain requirements described in the Ordinance. With no one appearing before Council, Mayor Dehen closed the Public Hearing.

Public Hearing, 7 p.m.-Consider Amending City Code Chapter 154.15 Sign Regulations.

Community Development Director Fischer stated Kato Engineering was requesting the City consider amending City Sign Code for the industrial districts which limit buildings over 25,000 square feet to 400 square feet of signage. The building in question is 272,425 square feet. The proposed Ordinance has three tiers for the following footage; less than 25,000 square feet are allowed 200 square feet of signage, 25,001-200,000 are allowed 400 square feet of signage and buildings over 200,000 square feet are allowed 600 square feet of signage. With no one appearing before Council, Mayor Dehen closed the Public Hearing.

Consent Agenda

Council Member Freyberg moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to approve the Consent Agenda which included:

- A. Bills and Appropriations.
- B. Res. No. 37-17 Approving Donations/Contributions/Grants.
- C. Approved Park Permit for Spring Lake Park Shelter 1 and Shelter 2 for the RipRoar Youth Triathlon on June 24, 2017 from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.
- D. Approved Parade Permit for RipRoar Youth Triathlon on June 24, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.
- E. Approved Audio Permit for RipRoar Youth Triathlon at Spring Lake Park on June 24, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.
- F. Approved the May 17, 2017 Traffic & Safety Committee Meeting Minutes.
- G. Approved the Application for Temporary Extension of Premise for Spinners on June 17, 2017 for a Bean Bag Tournament from 10:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m.
- H. Set Public Hearing for 7:00 p.m. on June 19, 2017 to Consider the 2017-2018 Annual Action Plan.

Vote on the motion: Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, Freyberg, and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried. Council Member Norland thanked all those who made donations.

Public Comments

Tom Hagen, 927 Lake Street appeared before Council and expressed concerns over the proposed Spring Lake Swim Facility improvements. He stated the City should focus on renewable energy and not the wants of an improved swim facility. Council Member Norland stated the City has been working on renewable energy and green initiatives.

Dave Arnold, 1028 Oak Terrace Drive, appeared before Council and stated Arnold's Storage invested \$17,000 in changing to LED and has seen cost savings and he knows the City buildings and street lights are moving to LED.

Business Items

Adopt Ordinance No. 91, Fourth Series, An Ordinance of the City of North Mankato, Minnesota, Amending North Mankato City Code, Chapter 154.12, Entitled "Sign Regulations." Council Member Freyberg moved, seconded by Council Member Norland to Adopt Ordinance No. 91, Fourth Series, An Ordinance of the City of North Mankato, Minnesota, Amending North Mankato City Code, Chapter 154.12, Entitled "Sign Regulations." Vote on the motion: Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, Freyberg, and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Adopt Ordinance No. 92, Fourth Series, An Ordinance of the City of North Mankato, Minnesota, Amending North Mankato City Code, Chapter 154.15, Entitled "Sign Regulations." Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner to Adopt Ordinance No. 92, Fourth Series, An Ordinance of the City of North Mankato, Minnesota, Amending North Mankato City Code, Chapter 154.15, Entitled "Sign Regulations." Vote on the motion: Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, Freyberg, and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Res. No. 38-17 Approving Plans and Specifications and Authorizing Construction Bid Documents for Project No. 17-03 Spring Lake Swim Facility and Bath House Reconstruction. Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner to Adopt Res. No. 38-17

Approving Plans and Specifications and Authorizing Construction Bid Documents for Project No. 17-03 Spring Lake Swim Facility and Bath House Reconstruction. Vote on the motion: Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, Freyberg, and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.

City Administrator and Staff Comments

City Administrator Harrenstein reviewed information concerning the extension of the sales tax answering question concerning why North Mankato was authorized to collect 9 million and not the 15 million tax payers approved in the 2016 Special Election. He stated extension of the sales tax was first contemplated by the City Council in 2014 because the first six million had been allocated and the City Council was discussing, as part of the budget process, how to continue completing Benson Park and how to consider the construction of an indoor recreational amenity at Caswell Park. At that time, it was estimated the tax would generate \$550,000 per year, and the memo provided requested an additional 15 year extension for a total of \$8,250,000. This estimate assumed no growth in the revenue, and subsequently, the City Council and Staff determined to request nine million dollars in the Resolution adopted in January of 2015.

City Administrator Harrenstein stated that during lobbying efforts at the Legislature in 2015, the Senate Tax Committee desired to link the Mankato and North Mankato question with regional approval at the same election. During the process, a request was made by Mankato to extend the tax to 2038 and this extended the period to 23 years instead of what was thought to be only a 15-year extension. The Legislature and Governor could not arrive at a compromise regarding a tax bill in 2015 and 2016, so the extension did not move forward. It should be noted the legislature approved the North Mankato tax during 2016 at the 9 million dollar level, but the bill was ultimately vetoed by the Governor. During the summer of 2016, a community group was convened by Greater Mankato Growth to discuss regional recreational needs, and the infrastructure needs to be proposed to be funded with sales tax dollars. As the list of eligible projects was determined by the community and City Council(s), it was noted the cost of the projects exceeded the revenue from both city's taxes and that private dollar from other local groups would be needed to complete all of the requests. During that time, sales tax revenues increased in North Mankato to \$590,000 a year. As a result of the extended timeframe of the tax, increased revenue, expanded list of projects, and applying a 1% annual growth rate to collection estimates, a determination was made by the City Council and Staff to increase the request to 15 million dollars. Also, a community decision was made in 2016 to pursue an extension of the tax in both communities before seeking legislative approval in 2017 because it was anticipated this would bolster the case for the extension among Legislative Leaders. When this decision was made, the City Council chose to ask voters to approve fifteen million dollars instead of the nine million dollars based on the increased revenue being collected by the tax and the requirement the tax be linked to the 2038 extension pursued jointly with Mankato.

When North Mankato and Mankato returned in 2017 to lobby for the sales tax, House Republicans believed they had already agreed to the nine million dollar amount during the 2016 session. Senate Republicans passed the bill at the 15 million dollar amount. During the conference committee, the Senate acquiesced to the House's position that nine million was the amount previously approved for North Mankato. During the final stages of lobbying efforts, North Mankato was presented with a choice: nine million dollars or nothing. Staff opted during lobbying efforts to secure the nine million dollars when faced with the alternative of securing nothing. North Mankato will return to the legislature at a later date to seek approval of the full 15 million dollar extension.

Public Works Director Swanson reported the construction of lines for sump pumps has been occurring on Candi Lane along with mil and overlay in the area. He stated residents were happy with the improvements.

Public Works Director Swanson reported Movies in the Park would be held Friday, June 9th beginning at approximately 9 pm with games and bouncy houses available one hour before the movie.

City Clerk Van Genderen reported Bookin' on Belgrade was held on June 3, 2017, with approximately 135 participants, it was a fun event with a lot of energy and enthusiasm.

Mayor and Council Comments

Council Member Norland stated language concerning sustainability, energy efficiency, air quality and a healthier environment would be considered for inclusion in the Strategic Plan.

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland to reschedule the July Council Meetings to July 10, 2017, at 7:00 pm and July 24, 2017, at 7:00 pm. Vote on the motion: Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, Freyberg, and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Mayor Dehen stated ArtSplash and the North Star Bike Race would be held on June 17th. He requested staff have renderings of the proposed Spring Lake Swim Facility available for review on June 17, 2017.

Mayor Dehen stated he would like to schedule a Coffee with the Council for June 24, 2017, at Spring Lake Park at 10:00 a.m.

Mayor Dehen stated City Council would be bringing back recommendations for sustainability and review those ideas during the budget process, allowing departments to review ideas and include in the 3 to 5 year plans.

Mayor Dehen reported a new bike trails map was included in the packet showing connectivity around the City. Public Works Director Swanson reviewed potential connections.

Mayor Dehen read a Spirit of Cooperation Proclamation into the record:

WHEREAS, in Mankato and North Mankato, Minnesota—the cities we call home—we acknowledge that when individuals and teams do well and achieve accomplishments, it's outstanding ambassadorship and helps put Mankato and North Mankato, Minnesota on the map.

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that the Minnesota State Mavericks softball team won its first national championship in program history, finishing the season with a program best 64-7 record after downing Angelo State, 5-1, at the National Collegiate Athletic Association Championship (NCCA) Championship Finals at the Moyer Sport Complex in Salem, VA. This is the second-highest for a NCCA Division II National Champion.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, Eric Anderson, Mayor of the City of Mankato, and Mark Dehen, Mayor of the City of North Mankato, in the State of Minnesota hereby proclaim June 6, 2017 as “Maverick Softball Day.” We therefore proclaim on behalf of the people of Mankato and North Mankato, June 6, 2017.

“Maverick Softball Day”

Team members: Coley Ries, Carly Esselman, McKenzie Paap, Alyssa Rickels, Amber Kral, Caitlin Stone, Libby Bemis, Ashley Ewoldt, Dana Mogren, Cori Kennedy, Ashley Thell, Jess Meidl, Kennedy Rieck, Bria Majeski and Samantha Buhmann

Coaches: Lori Meyer, Kristie Wolcott and Sammie Hildreth

Public Comments

Tom Hagen, 927 Lake Street, appeared before Council and requested Council take action to control the deer population stating he was disappointed in the Council’s lack of action. Mayor Dehen stated the City has been communicating with the DNR and the Minnesota Public Health Department, monitoring deer/vehicle incidents, passed an Ordinance prohibiting the feeding of deer and placed information in the City E-Newsletter.

There being no further business, on a motion by Council Member Norland, seconded by Council Member Steiner, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 to closed session to conduct the City Administrator’s review.

Mayor

City Clerk