

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 1, 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, Finance Director McCann, Community Development Director Fischer, Library Director Heintz, Caswell Sports Director Tostenson, and Police Chief Gullickson, present in the Council Chambers for roll call: Council Member Norland, Mayor Dehen, City Administrator Harrenstein, and City Clerk Van Genderen. Absent Public Works Director Host. Citizen participation was available through teleconference and live stream of the meeting.

Approval of Agenda

Item 9C was added to the Business Items. The item was to consider Dino's Temporary Patio proposal. Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to approve the amended agenda. Vote on the motion: Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes May 18, 2020.

Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Oachs, to approve the minutes of the Council meeting of May 18, 2020. Vote on the motion: Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, 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. 50-20 Approving Donations/Contributions/Grants.
- C. Res. No. 51-20 Changing Polling Location for Precinct 4 for the 2020 Election.
- D. Approved Parade Permit for Dakota Meadows Middle School Retirement Celebration on June 4, 2020.

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

Res. No. 52-20 Approving Plans and Specifications and Ordering Advertisement for Bids Project No. 20-03 ABCDEF-Countryside Drive Street and Utility Improvement Project.

City Engineer Sarff reported the proposed project area is from Houghton Avenue to Coventry Lane. There is a residential development proposed on the property north of Countryside Drive that requires infrastructure improvements on Countryside Drive. Engineer Sarff reviewed the Sanitary Sewer System's existing conditions, which includes a 27" trunk sanitary sewer constructed in 1996 and existing residential properties current sanitary sewer services. The proposed improvements include a new 8" sanitary sewer system to serve new residential lots on the north side of Countryside Drive. The existing Watermain System consists of a 16" ductile iron watermain constructed in 1998. Existing

residential properties on the south side of Countryside Drive currently have water service. Proposed improvements include new 8" watermain stub outs to the north to accommodate new development and new 1" plastic service lines for new lots on the north side of Countryside Drive along with new auto-reading water meters provided to all properties receiving assessments, regardless if new water service is constructed or not. There is no existing storm sewer on Countryside Drive except at intersecting streets and project termini. Proposed improvements include a new storm sewer system on Countryside Drive with a 12-inch pipe to a 30-inch storm sewer pipe, manholes, and catch basins. The current street and surface is a "rural" design approximately 24' wide bituminous with side ditches & culverts. There is an existing 6' wide concrete sidewalk west of Haughton Avenue and on Coventry Lane. There is no off-street trail on Countryside Drive east of Lor Ray Drive or Coventry Lane. Proposed street improvements include a 40' wide street, curb and gutter, reconstruction of existing driveways, and a new 6-foot wide concrete sidewalk on the north side of Countryside Drive matching existing sidewalk to the west. New streetlights will be installed. City Engineer Sarff reported the bid opening would occur at the end of June, and the assessment hearing would precede the awarding of the bid.

Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Oachs, to adopt Res. No. 52-20 Approving Plans and Specifications and Ordering Advertisement for Bids Project No. 20-03 ABCDEF-Countryside Drive Street and Utility Improvement Project. Vote on the motion: Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Review Demographic Update for Inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan Update.

City Administrator Harrenstein reported the document is a draft that will be included in the update of the 2015 Comprehensive Plan. With the census being completed, it is an excellent time to review and expand those portions of the Comprehensive Plan. He examined the highlights of the report, including an estimated 6.7% population increase between 2010 and 2019 compared to 13% growth in Mankato and 10.6% for the entire Greater Mankato area. City Administrator Harrenstein stated North Mankato's slower growth could be attributed to fewer multi-family housing units. The fewer housing units are linked to the Comprehensive Plan, which had limited areas planned for multi-family housing. Mayor Dehen commented that the Comprehensive Plan reflected the community plans for the City as a lot of community engagement informed the plan. City Administrator Harrenstein reviewed additional highlights including an increase in the median age from 35.5 in 2010 to 37.9 in 2019, continued growth in the number of households in North Mankato, and a decrease in the average number of persons per household from 2.48 in 2000, to 2.39 in 2010 and down to 2.36 in 2018. City Administrator Harrenstein reported the chapter is in draft form, and additional information will be included. Council Member Norland requested clarification on how places like Birchwood Cottages are counted. Community Development Director Fischer reported they are counted like any apartment complex.

Review Proposed Temporary Patio Proposal from Dino's Pizzeria.

City Administrator Harrenstein reported that Dino's does not have an area that can easily be used for the creation of a patio that would allow them to open in accordance with the Governor's orders and the local resolution authorizing for additional outdoor seating. He stated the proposal created a patio space in the street using barriers. City Engineer Sarff reported the plan uses jersey barriers that are 3 feet high and would be anchored to the road. The area would need to be tapered to increase safety for those within the barrier and traffic. A discussion was held concerning the drawing that was presented to the Council and the number of parking stalls that would be utilized for the patio space. It was determined it could be as high as ten spaces. City Engineer Sarff stated a previous version did not use as many parking spaces. Community Development Director Fischer said the option

presented would trade parking for patio seating. He commented that a lot of traffic moves through Belgrade Avenue. Community Development Director Fischer stated he thought Dino's was considering the vacant lot not far from their property.

Mayor Dehen requested clarification on if the City or Dino's had spoken with the other businesses in the area and asked for further consideration of the vacant lot. Council Member Steiner agreed that it appeared that many parking spaces were utilized for the patio seating. Council Member Oachs expressed concerns about the safety of using the street. Attorney Kennedy stated that if City property is utilized, Dino's insurance will need to cover any liability incurred by the City. City Administrator Harrenstein said City staff would speak to area business owners, reduce the size of the proposed use of the street, address safety concerns, and see if Dino's can work out a plan with the owner of the vacant lot. The discussion continued about safety and the size of the proposed patio space. Mayor Dehen requested City staff work to create a viable plan. **Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Oachs, to accept the Recommendation to Provide Dino's with Additional Seating. Vote on the motion: Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

Open Forum

Barb Church, 102 Wheeler Avenue, spoke concerning ensuring the personal safety of the homeless when calling an emergency curfew. Ms. Church commented on the electronic meeting procedures. Ms. Church commented that she thought placing the Native American Chief in the Public Works Yard was insensitive. She urged the Council to have the budget meetings recorded by video.

City Administrator and Staff Comments

City Administrator Harrenstein commented that the Sitting Bull statue was acquired approximately one month ago. The statue was placed in the Public Works yard so it can be cleaned before being placed in a park. He rejected any perception that the statue is being treated disrespectfully as the statue needed some work to restore it and prepare it for installation.

City Administrator Harrenstein reported City staff is prepared to open playgrounds with posted notice for maintaining social distancing, and the playground is not sanitized. He said City Hall and the Police Annex anticipate opening on June 15, 2020, following the potential end to the Governor's state of emergency on June 12, 2020. He indicated the library was also considering opening at that time but was coordinating with the Blue Earth County Library. City Administrator Harrenstein reported the swim facility was anticipating the start of swim lessons on June 15th, and once or if the Governor moves to phase three, the swim facility would be opened to up to 250 people in the facility. Aquatics Programming Director Bekah Sands and Library Director Katie Heintz have been working on different plans for the reopening and would like to present those ideas to the Council at a Council Work Session on June 8, 2020. Mayor Dehen requested possible openings of facilities wait until after the June 15, 2020, Council Meeting so the City Council could provide direction to City staff. Caswell Sports Director Tostenson reported softball practices would begin and they can practice in their own pod, but cannot use the dugouts. He stated adult leagues are waiting on further governor direction. Tennis lessons will start on June 15th with a limited number on the courts and sanitation practices in place.

Mayor Dehen requested Council input on opening the playgrounds. **Council Member Oachs moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to Open the Playgrounds with Appropriate Signage that Follows the Minnesota Department of Health's guidelines. Vote on the motion: Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.** Mayor Dehen requested notification to go out on the Nixle system.

City Administrator Harrenstein reported the Farmer's Market opened on June 1, 2020. We are excited to have the market hosted at South Central College.

Police Chief Gullickson reviewed the events of the past weekend. On Friday, May 29th protests over the death of George Floyd by a police officer in Minneapolis began on Veteran's Bridge and later on Riverfront Park in Mankato. Both demonstrations were peaceful until later in the evening when the damage occurred in Mankato. In response to the violence, the City of Mankato requested cooperation from the City of North Mankato in implementing a curfew from 8 pm to 6 am for both May 30th and May 31st. The City Council moved quickly and issued a curfew order in conjunction with the City of Mankato, and the announcement was made at 2 pm in a joint press conference on Saturday, May 30th. Chief Gullickson reported both cities were quiet on both nights of the curfew, and the curfew has been lifted.

Mayor Dehen thanked the Police Chief, the police officers, citizens, and businesses for obeying the curfew.

Mayor and Council Comments

Council Member Norland thanked the staff for their diligence and love for the City during everything that has happened in the past few days. She indicated this is probably the first time a curfew has ever been called in the City of North Mankato for rioting. She thanked Chief Gullickson and reported she had seen him speaking with protestors and thanked him and indicated talking and sharing with each other is one of the ways a resolution can be made, and we can all do better.

Council Member Norland thanked the City for their work on the streets as they continue to improve with the work that is being completed.

Council Member Oachs thanked the staff for the spring cleanup.

Council Member Oachs thanked Police Chief Gullickson and the Police Department and stated the staff and Police are a great department.

Council Member Oachs encouraged customers of bars and restaurants to be patient as staff work through all of the increased protocols.

Council Member Whitlock thanked staff for the spring clean up effort.

Council Member Whitlock thanked the Police Department for enforcing the curfew and that it was a quiet Saturday and Sunday night.

Council Member Steiner thanked the staff for the spring clean up.

Mayor Dehen reported he was thankful businesses were opening up and encouraged patience from all patrons as businesses adjust to the new requirements.

Mayor Dehen thanked the staff for continuing to pursue improvements for local roads and infrastructure.

Mayor Dehen commented that the City was recently gifted the Sitting Bull statue made by Tom Miller and has been cleaning and preparing the statue for a new location. The City is working with Native American representatives to ensure the statue is respectfully placed.

At 7:58 pm on a motion by Council Member Norland, seconded by Council Member Steiner, the Council Meeting was adjourned.

Mayor

City Clerk