

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 4, 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 Steiner, Norland, Freyberg, and Whitlock, City Administrator Harrenstein, Finance Director McCann, Attorney Kennedy, Community Development Director Fischer, City Engineer Sarff 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: Norland, Freyberg, Whitlock, Steiner 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 May 21, 2018. Vote on the motion: Norland, Freyberg, 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. 50-18 Approving Donations/Contributions/Grants.
- C. Res. No. 51-18 Waiving Waiting Period for Exemption from Lawful Gambling License for Mankato Area Girls Fastpitch Association.
- D. Approved Parade Permit for North Mankato Fun Days Kiddie Parade on July 6, 2018, from 6:15 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- E. Approved Parade Permit for North Mankato Fun Days on July 7, 2018 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- F. Approved Application for Temporary 3.2% Alcohol Permit for Fun Days on July 6,7,8, 2018.
- G. Res. No. 52-18 Approving Consent Assessment Agreement.
- H. Approved Large Group Park and Audio Permit for Jack Links Company Picnic at Spring Lake Park on July 15, 2018, with Audio from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Council Member Freyberg requested clarification on the bills and appropriations and questioned if the City had received proceeds from Nicollet County in regards to the \$101,568 paid to Dan Wingert. Finance Director McCann reported the City would receive the proceeds from Nicollet County with the regular tax settlement at the end of the month. Nicollet County did confirm that they received the funds. Council Member Freyberg indicated the City should have received the funds from Nicollet County before paying Mr. Wingert. City Administrator Harrenstein indicated there was a two-week timeframe established in the development agreement and indicated he could locate a copy of the agreement for Council Member Freyberg.

Vote on the motion: Norland, Whitlock, and Dehen aye; Council Member Freyberg and Steiner abstain; no nays. Motion carried.

Public Comments Concerning Business Items on the Agenda

Lucy Lowry, 2263 Northridge Drive, appeared before Council and indicated she supported the changes to the transit system as long as there was a review of the plan after the termination of the grant that expanded services, and requested a link to the bus route be added to the City website.

Business Items

Review Walter S. Farm Master Parks Plan.

City Administrator Harrenstein indicated the plan was a draft proposal created in cooperation with the neighbors of Walter S. Farm and Bolton & Menk. He reported the plan would go before public comment and additional review before adoption. Parks Superintendent Rader reviewed the plan and indicated the plan had changed following the neighborhood meetings. He indicated elements such as a natural play area and a splash pad were set aside for future consideration. Play equipment has been purchased for the park and will be installed this year. Council Member Freyberg indicated he was surprised to receive the information in the packet when the Greenway Conservation Committee had not reviewed the information. Council Member Freyberg questioned why the Parks Master Plan in 2015 had a \$75,000 improvement and now it is over \$300,000 and the cost will probably increase before completion. He questioned the reason for the plan when Benson Park has been in the plans for completion since 2007. Parks Superintendent Rader indicated the plan had been worked on since 2015. Council Member Freyberg indicated he wished it had been brought before the Greenway Conservation Committee. City Administrator Harrenstein indicated the Parks Master Plan did have specific recommendations in terms of annual allocations of funds, which have been reprioritized by the Council and Green Space Committee during the budget process. The City has \$350,000 to invest in the parks, recently \$30,000 was reallocated for ash borer remediation. City Administrator Harrenstein indicated the reason the Green Space Committee had not been consulted was because it is still in draft format. Walter S. Farm has one storm pond that would fall under policies of the Green Space Management but City staff has been implementing the established policies. Staff is eager to hear from the Green Space Committee on the proposed plan. City Administrator Harrenstein reported city staff was approached by the local neighborhood and the people who donated the property to request an update to the park. Council Member Freyberg stated the Green Space Advisory committee was created to advise the parks department, city staff and the council, but he did not believe that was happening, rather those bodies were advising the Green Space Advisory Committee. Council Member Freyberg indicated he believed Council should ensure that City staff consult with the City Council before beginning a master plan ensuring proper policies and procedures are followed. City Administrator Harrenstein stated he hoped the Green Space Committee and staff were advising each other. He indicated in matters of greenway management Parks Superintendent Rader and Park Foreman Lobitz could attest to the positive assistance received from the committee. City Administrator Harrenstein reported residents would like neighborhood park improvements and they do not want to wait until massive outlays for Benson are completed. Mayor Dehen stated since the plan has been created it should go to the Green Space Committee for comment before being returned for continued public comment. Council Member Norland asked if this was the park with a neighborhood committee and a website. Parks Superintendent Rader stated they have a Facebook page for communication.

Update on Transit Route.

Finance Director McCann reported the Greater Mankato Transit System (MTS) initiated a Transit Development Plan (TDP) through consultants Kimley-Horn and representatives from MnDOT, the City of Mankato, and the City of North Mankato. Finance Director McCann reported the TDP was designed to identify opportunities for improvement in service and operations. The process included a variety of stakeholder meetings, public engagement surveys, focus group meetings, press releases, and

social media outreach. The ideas that were received were compared to Mankato/North Mankato Area Planning Organization (MAPO) Long-Range Transportation Plan and other plans. MTS has existing service of 24 square miles in Mankato and North Mankato serving the major retail, employment, and higher education facilities. There are 19 fixed bus route lines along with paratransit service. The City of North Mankato has two routes in town: Route 4 through Lower North and Route 5 serving Upper North. Part of the TDP recommendation has been to consolidate these routes into one. This change would not take effect until July or August, assuming there are no issues during the final approval from the public and the City of Mankato. MTS has also received a grant to expand the North Mankato service to all day service (roughly 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.) through a pilot program through 6/30/19. This increase in hours means that paratransit would now be available all day for nearly 12 hours per day since it is only available in town when the fixed bus routes are running. MTS and North Mankato will conduct a review of this service in May 2019 to determine if it should continue after the end of the grant. Finance Director McCann reported the continued service is estimated at an additional \$29,000 a year beyond the \$55,000 to \$75,000 the City has allocated toward transportation. The City of North Mankato and MTS are also exploring a hybrid transit approach that would incorporate Uber/Lyft to carry passengers. Finance Director McCann stated the plan had three service options which could impact the cost and it recommended changes to marketing and communications, provided a replacement schedule and cost, recommended organizational and staffing changes within the MTS organizations. Finance Director McCann reported the next steps in the TDP process include a MAPO meeting on June 7th, presentation to the Mankato City Council on June 11th or 25th, where the with full implementation in July or August.

City Administrator Harrenstein reported the current system is designed for commuters going to work, as the times coincide with work times and schools. He stated a discussion would need to be held to determine if the target should be changed to accommodate different riders making more hours available during workday hours. City Administrator Harrenstein indicated expanded service is costly and discussion should be held following the pilot program.

Council Member Steiner requested clarification on when the changes would be implemented. Finance Director McCann reported it would begin in July or August.

Council Member Freyberg reported the MPO would be discussing the plan on Thursday.

Council Member Norland indicated the changed route could potentially help students travel to school.

City Attorney Kennedy stated the transportation system is a service and the City of North Mankato and Mankato will need to review the results of the changes and determine if they should continue.

Open Forum

Phil Henry, 1300 Noretta Drive, appeared before Council and thanked Council Member Freyberg for his comments on process and expressed concerns about the Wingert Development Agreement.

Barb Church, 102 Wheeler Avenue appeared before Council and requested clarification on if all of the transportation options were considered and coordinated together through the MPO. Council Member Freyberg indicated the Tactical Advisory Committee for the MPO does a thorough job.

Lucy Lowry, 2263 Northridge Drive, appeared before Council and reviewed the Governor's 25X25 plan to improve water quality. She indicated a resident was concerned about sump pump water

being discharged into the streets and reviewed several options to avoid the discharge into the streets and requested the City put options in the e-newsletter and utility bill stuffer.

Tom Hagen, 927 Lake Street, appeared before Council and stated Minnesota is #7 in the nation for tick born illnesses.

City Administrator and Staff Comments

City Administrator Harrenstein reported that in section two of the approved Wingert Development agreement it states that the City shall reimburse within two weeks from when there is verification from Nicollet County that the payment has been made. He indicated his previous communication explaining the proposed development agreement should have stated upon verification.

City Engineer Sarff reported there was a project meeting for residents on Jefferson Street. Four residents attended along with representatives from the contractors.

Finance Director McCann reported the audit is almost complete and will be presented in July.

Mayor and Council Comments

Council Member Norland stated the development on Coventry Lane is a positive action for the City as the properties have been foreclosed since 2005 and it is good to get them back on the tax rolls. She reported she viewed the properties and they will be difficult to develop but the project is already moving forward.

Council Member Norland stated the Marie Lane Extension was necessary and the City is responsible for the roads in North Mankato. The development will also be important to rectify ravine issues.

Council Member Whitlock noted the Farmers' Market starts Monday, June 11th.

Mayor Dehen reported \$830,000 for the levy project was approved by the Governor so the project will be moving forward.

Mayor Dehen reported \$143 million in funding was secured for the completion of Highway 14 from Owatonna to Dodge Center.

Mayor Dehen stated the Council should consider a council workshop on June 18, 2018 to discuss the rental density committee report and additional rental information.

There being no further business, on a motion by Council Member Norland, seconded by Council Member Steiner, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk