

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 6, 2016. 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, Spears and Steiner, City Administrator Harrenstein, Attorney Kennedy, City Planner Fischer, Public Works Director Swanson 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, Spears, Steiner, Norland and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland to approve the minutes of the Council meeting of May 16, 2016. Vote on the motion: Freyberg, Spears, Steiner, Norland and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Public Hearing, 7 pm-Proposed Assessment for 2016 Roe Crest Drive Improvement Project No. 15-02ABCDEF

City Engineer Dan Sarff stated the Public Hearing allows concerned residents an opportunity to speak. City Engineer Sarff reported that based on the low bid the estimated assessments would be between \$14,500 and \$24,500 per residence. The assessment policy and the City of North Mankato recognizes the assessment may not match the improvement to the property and proposes capping the assessment at \$8,000. City Engineer Sarff stated there were three options for payment. Residents could prepay the assessment in full before December 16, 2016 with no interest added to the assessment, spread the payment over 15 years with an interest rate of 2% greater than the average coupon rate, or prepay a portion and pay the remaining balance over time. With no one appearing before Council the Mayor closed this portion of the meeting.

Public Hearing, 7 pm-Proposed Sidewalk Maintenance and Installation Policy.

Mayor Dehen reported staff presented a sidewalk maintenance and installation policy to Council on May 16, 2016. The policy is currently under review with a display in City Hall allowing for public comment and two planned public hearings. Tom Hagen, 927 Lake Street, appeared before Council and stated he reviewed the policy and sidewalks should be considered an amenity. Both the City and citizens pay for a portion of the cost and residents pick-up the work of maintenance. He stated the recently built downtown parking lots cost approximately \$574,000 and they are an amenity that benefits the businesses. Administrator Harrenstein stated the parking lots were paid through bond premiums so payment for the parking lots is made by the tax payers including the downtown business owners. Mr. Hagen stated if he was a business owner and a taxpayer and would like the same amenity. With no one else appearing before Council the Mayor closed this portion of the meeting.

Consent Agenda

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

- A. Bills and Appropriations.
- B. Res. No. 46-16 Approving Donations/Contributions/Grants.

C. Res. No. 47-16 Adopting Election Judges for the Primary Election on August 9, 2016 and the General Election on November 8, 2016.

Vote on the motion: Freyberg, Spears, Steiner, Norland and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried. Mayor Dehen thanked all those who donated to the library, the Spring Lake Swim Facility family pass donations and all those who volunteered to be an Election Judge.

Proclamation-Declaring June 23, 2016 Capstone Day

The Mayor read the proclamation into record.

WHEREAS, Capstone was established in 1991 with the publication of 48 children's books; and

WHEREAS, Capstone stays true to its core mission of inspiring children's imaginations and igniting their curiosity through well written books and interactive digital platforms; and

WHEREAS, Capstone over the past 25 years has expanded their reach from the library to homes, classrooms, districts and internationally; and

WHEREAS, Capstone's corporate giving program is investing in local literacy education for children by supporting literacy programs, expanding educational opportunities and caring for the environment.

NOW THEREFORE I, Mark Dehen, Mayor of North Mankato, proclaim June 23rd as:

CAPSTONE DAY

in the City of North Mankato and encourage all citizens to celebrate the day by reading a Capstone book and enjoying the festivities.

Certificate of Recognition

The Mayor read the certificate of recognition into record.

WHEREAS, Randy Knauss, Bob Peterson, Doug Larson and Marilyn Larson have rendered service to this community which deserves special recognition; and

WHEREAS, Randy, Bob, Doug and Marilyn obtained permission to remove buckthorn from a portion of City owned boulevard and wooded area, and spent many hours cutting the buckthorn and removing dead trees from the forest floor; and

WHEREAS, their dedication and zeal in the removal of the noxious buckthorn was appreciated by both the residents of the community and the City of North Mankato staff.

NOW, THEREFORE, on behalf of all our citizens, I am pleased to tender this Certificate of Recognition to Randy, Bob, Doug and Marilyn, with our sincere thanks for their hard work to help beautify the City of North Mankato.

Public Comments

Presentation of CenterPoint Energy Community Partnership Grant to the North Mankato Fire Department to help purchase automatic defibrillators.

Susan Sargent, CenterPoint Energy, appeared before Council and presented the North Mankato Fire Department and Chief Inman a check for \$1700.00 to help purchase automatic defibrillators.

Tom Hagen, 927 Lake Street, appeared before Council and thanked Chief Boyer and City Planner Fischer for conducting sound testing in Spring Lake Park on May 26, 2016.

Business Items

Consider Approving Purchase of a 2006 Pierce Enforcer 75' Ladder Truck. Fire Chief Inman reported the current Ladder Truck has served the community well but is 34 years old. The City Council approved the search for a new Fire Engine with a budget of \$400,000. A committee was formed with members of the Fire Department, Public Works and City Administration to develop a Preferred Specification Outline which considered the type, age, mechanical and other safety features to guide the search process. The committee determined to look for a used truck due to constraints of the budget. The search committee reviewed five different apparatus' and the committee recommends the purchase of a 2006 Pierce Enforcer 75' Ladder Truck due to matching nearly all specifications, quality of the manufacturer, minimal training due to the truck being the same brand as two other pumper trucks, within 4% of the budgeted amount and the truck comes from a fire apparatus dealer with a good reputation. Council Member Spears stated a different engine was rejected due to the company no longer being in business. Fire Chief Inman reported the truck was custom built and would be difficult to maintain without the support of the manufacturer. Council Member Spears thanked the search committee for their thoroughness. **Council Member Freyberg moved, seconded by Council Member Spears to Approve the Purchase of the 2006 Pierce Enforcer 75' Ladder Truck for \$415,000. Vote on the motion: Freyberg, Spears, Steiner, Norland and Dehen aye; Spears nay. Motion carried.**

Receive Results of the North Kato Ideas Questionnaire and the Brewing Ideas for North Kato Events. Administrator Harrenstein reported earlier this year staff recommended two citizen engagement techniques be used to gather resident feedback on a variety of topics. The first was a questionnaire sent to citizens asking them to rank various projects associated with parks and recreation. The second, "Brewing Ideas for North Mankato" was a wide ranging discussion aimed at gathering citizen feedback. Administrator Harrenstein stated approximately 5,190 questionnaires were mailed to North Mankato residents in the March utility bill. A total of 851 questionnaires were returned by mail and another 258 questionnaires were completed in the online option. There were between 8 to 10 projects that were consistently considered most popular by priority ranking or total votes given. The following were the 10 most popular: Upgrade Spring Lake Swim Facility, Construct restrooms in Spring Lake Park, Improve Pedestrian Safety on Lookout Drive, Improve Outdoor Hockey Rink and Warming House at Spring Lake Park, Re-establish trail from Bluff Park to Spring Lake Park, Build Ice Arena in Caswell Park, Expand the Taylor Library, Build a covered shelter/restroom in Benson Park, Recognize Historic Sites, Build Indoor Turf Facility at Caswell Park and Build Aquatic Facility in Caswell Park. In response, staff will begin collecting cost estimates for the projects and incorporate discussion of them into the budget process.

Administrator Harrenstein introduced Katie Boone and Ruthie Johnson from Envision Lab. Ms. Boone stated the purpose of the two Public Engagement Design Lab sessions was to build a shared vision and clarify what matters most to the citizens of North Mankato. The sessions posed three questions during the process. The first question was what is it that makes people feel connected to North Mankato? Ms. Boone reported the overall theme was a hometown feel, community events, support for local businesses, the history of people and land and engaged local government. The

second question was what are we noticing? Ms. Boone divided the responses into opportunities and livability. Opportunity responses included creative economy, business expansion, diverse cultures and economic expansion. While livability responses included relationships, housing, parks and recreation and connectivity. The third question was what are the opportunities for North Mankato? This question elicited the following ideas; continued citizen engagement, downtown redevelopment, upper north development, traffic flow and bike lanes and greenway conservation, design guidelines and historic preservation.

Administrator Harrenstein concluded City staff would be prioritizing projects based on the results and provide additional information on estimated cost.

Res. No. 48-16 Adopting Assessment for Project No. 15-02ABCDEF Roe Crest Drive Improvement. Council Member Freyberg moved, seconded by Council Member Norland to adopt Res. No. 48-16 Adopting Assessment for Project No. 15-02ABCDEF Roe Crest Drive Improvement. Vote on the motion: Freyberg, Steiner, Norland and Dehen aye; Spears nay. Motion carried.

Res. No. 49-16 Awarding Bid for Project No. 15-02ABCDEF Roe Crest Drive Improvement. Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland to Adopt Res. No. 49-16 Awarding Bid for Project No. 15-02ABCDEF Roe Crest Drive Improvement. Vote on the motion: Freyberg, Steiner, Norland and Dehen aye; Spears nay. Motion carried.

City Administrator and Staff Comments

City Administrator Harrenstein reported the City of North Mankato Budget Calendar Fiscal Year 2017 Budget was available in the packet.

City Administrator Harrenstein thanked Library Director Lowry and Business on Belgrade for the success of Bookin' on Belgrade.

City Administrator Harrenstein thanked Kim Hendrickson and Courtney Kietzer for the work they did in establishing the North Mankato Farmer's Market.

Public Works Director Swanson reported the Spring Lake Swim Facility opened on June 4, 2016. Bookin' on Belgrade was a success. Movies in the Park will be on June 10 in Spring Lake Park showing Big Hero Six. He stated on June 9 and 10 MSHSL Girls' State Tournament will be hosted at Caswell Park. Public Works Director Swanson indicated June 18 events include Art Splash and the North Star Bike Festival.

Public Works Director Swanson confirmed that as the Roe Crest Drive Project begins the residents will be provided 24 hour access.

Mayor and Council Comments

Council Member Norland thanked Public Works Director Swanson for work on the Zero Waste Project.

Council Member Norland reported she approved of removing the municipal building ramp. She stated even if the ramp met accessibility requirements it is difficult to maneuver.

Council Member Steiner presented the City of North Mankato with a \$500.00 check for the North Mankato Parkland Fund from the North Mankato Civic and Commerce Association.

Mayor Dehen read a letter from Antonio Englehorn who proposed improvements to the Spring Lake Swim Facility.

Mayor Dehen read a thank you note from Bridges Community School for the donation of swim passes to their fund raiser.

Mayor Dehen congratulated area teams on participation in the State Tournament. This year 32 teams will be participating in the tournament.

Council Member Spears read an evaluation letter for Administrator Harrenstein.

Public Comments

Barb Church, 102 Wheeler Avenue, appeared before Council and stated she approved of the Fire Department's process for purchasing the Fire Truck.

Tom Hagen, 927 Lake Street, appeared before Council and encouraged the creation of three permanent citizen committees for parks, design, and historical preservation.

Phil Henry, 1300 Noretta Drive, appeared before Council and stated he appreciated the work of the Fire Department and was interested in historical preservation.

There being no further business, on a motion by Council Member Norland, seconded by Council Member Steiner, the meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk