

On this, the 30th day of May 2020, the City Council of the City of North Mankato convened in an Emergency Council Meeting Session at 1:00 pm, necessitated by the threat of civil unrest and rioting. 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 1:00 pm. The following were present remotely through Zoom for roll call: Council Members Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, and Norland, City Administrator Harrenstein, Police Chief Gullickson, Fire Chief Giefer, and City Clerk Van Genderen.

Approval of Agenda

Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to approve the agenda. Vote on the motion: Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, Oachs, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Business Items

Discuss request from the City of Mankato to Jointly Implement an 8 pm to 6 am Curfew for May 30th and May 31st in response to Rioting in Mankato.

Police Chief Gullickson reviewed the events of the night of May 29, 2020. He reported peaceful protests were organized to protest the death of George Floyd while he was being placed under arrest by the Minneapolis Police Department. Protesters gathered on Veteran's Bridge, and another protest formed at Riverside Park in Mankato. Portions of both groups walked down to the safety center in Mankato. While the majority of the event was peaceful in the late evening, there was destruction at the Riverhills Mall, T-Mobile, and the law enforcement center in Mankato. The violent protestors eventually dispersed. City Administrator Harrenstein reported Chief Gullickson received a request from Public Safety Director Vogel to implement a joint curfew as another tool to address those that are turning violent. The joint curfew would benefit both cities. If Mankato implemented a curfew and North Mankato did not, those that were intent on causing problems may cross the bridge into North Mankato. Mayor Dehen requested clarification on if there were any reason to believe that trouble may occur. Police Chief Gullickson reported he had not heard any rumors, but with the anger that has been shown, it may be a possibility. Mayor Dehen requested additional information on those that were causing damage. Police Chief Gullickson reported it was only a small group of people that were intent on causing trouble.

Fire Chief Giefer reviewed their plan, which included preparation to send firefighters into Mankato if needed while maintaining staff and equipment in North Mankato, and they were prepared to call on Nicollet for mutual aid if necessary. Staff was instructed to conduct only defensive firefighting and not to enter a building unless individuals were in harm's way.

City Administrator Harrenstein commented that the Mayor could declare an emergency under Minnesota Statute 12.29. He reviewed a similar proclamation of emergency that the Mayor of Bloomington declared. He noted the travel would be prohibited except to and from work, in case of an emergency, homelessness, or fleeing a dangerous situation. Police Chief Gullickson pointed out the addition of the curfew would provide an additional tool to step in when people are on the street. He noted a person out getting gas would not get arrested, but they could get stopped and reminded of the curfew and sent home. Council Member Steiner requested clarification concerning what retail businesses that are typically open until 10 pm would do in response to the curfew. Police Chief Gullickson reported as the police patrol, the goal would be to educate first, and enforcement would be the last resort. Additional discussion was held about the timing of the curfew, concerns that dusk is later than 8 pm, and people like to be out enjoying the evening. Mayor Dehen recommended reaching

out to businesses that are typically open after 8 pm to let them know about the curfew. City Administrator Harrenstein encouraged mirroring Mankato’s hours of 8 pm to 6 am. Council Member Whitlock stated it might be beneficial to have the Fire Department assist with patrolling. He requested input from the rest of the Council and the staff. Police Chief Gullickson reported he has five extra officers on schedule, and the Nicollet County Sheriff’s department would have additional staff to assist North Mankato if needed. He indicated he would not put the Police Reserve out unless there were a need to direct traffic. Fire Chief Giefer reported he would be able to get the volunteers, but he was concerned with being in the way of the Police Department. It was determined that the Fire Department would only assist if there were a need for fire suppression.

Mayor Dehen stated he would sign the proclamation declaring a curfew but would like to have the support of the Council. **Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to Recommend the Mayor Sign an Emergency Order Declaring a Curfew. Vote on the motion: Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, Oachs, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

City Administrator Harrenstein reported he and the Police Chief would take part in a press conference at 2:00 pm to communicate the implementation of the curfew. Additional communication would be provided through Nixle, social media, and the City website.

At 1:43 pm on a motion by Council Member Norland, seconded by Council Member Steiner, the Emergency Council Meeting was adjourned.

Mayor

City Clerk