

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 October 16, 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 roll call: Mayor Dehen, Council Members Steiner, Norland, Freyberg and Whitlock, City Administrator Harrenstein, Finance Director McCann, City Attorney Kennedy, Community Development Director Fischer, Public Works Director Swanson and City Clerk Van Genderen. Council Member Freyberg left the proceedings before the Business Items.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Whitlock, to approve the minutes of the Council meeting of October 2, 2017. Vote on the motion: Whitlock, Steiner, and Dehen aye; Norland and Freyberg abstain. Motion carried.

Tribute to New Creation World Outreach Church

WHEREAS, October 8, 2017, marks the 50th Anniversary of New Creation World Outreach Church in our city, which began service in the community on October 8, 1967, like Trinity Church led by Pastors Cleon and Alita Laughlin; and

WHEREAS, Trinity Church moved to North Mankato in 1970 and settled in their current location in 1990, and was renamed New Creation World Outreach Church in 2004; and

WHEREAS, we give pause, honor, and praise this day for the deep and abiding commitment of those who began this work, and for those that continue to support the community; and

WHEREAS, the community has benefited from the church's influence and the many facets of its outreach and practical assistance to the needy, including providing support groups, hosting Fare For All, home school co-ops operating in the building, and weekly services for people in the region; and

WHEREAS, it is a pleasure to extend this expression of our esteem and best wishes to the members of this congregation on the memorable occasion of this 50th Anniversary.

NOW, THEREFORE, I do hereby proclaim October as New Creation World Outreach Church month in our community, and further, provide that a copy of this tribute be presented to the congregation in testimony of the high regard in which this church is held in the City of North Mankato.

Dated this 16th day of October 2017.

Pastor Dave Laughlin and Tyra Laughlin received the tribute. Pastor Laughlin reflected on the beginning of the church and stated for the Church's 50th anniversary they planned ways to give back to the community. On October 8, 2017, the church took an offering for the North Mankato Police

Department. The offering totaled \$17,000. Chief Boyer thanked Pastor Laughlin and the congregation for the generous donation.

Public Hearing-Public Comments on the 2018 Proposed Budget.

Barb Church, 102 Wheeler Avenue, appeared before Council and requested clarification on where the City obtained the 2 million dollars discussed at the Brewing up the Budget. Finance Director McCann reported this was the amount budgeted for debt issuance while still allowing the City to pay down debt. Tom Hagen, 927 Lake Street, appeared before Council and stated the largest single budget item is for debt. He stated the City should consider retiring debt. He also requested the City consider an Historic Tax Levy. Kim Spears, 916 South Avenue, appeared before Council and stated the City should not spend the 2 million dollars rather it should reduce spending and reverse the levy. Phil Henry, 1300 Noretta Drive, appeared before Council and stated the City should scale back and give the citizens the benefit of the tax base growth. Nancy Evans, 705 Grant Avenue, appeared before Council and noted the City should budget money to refine the rental code further. Ms. Evans said the City should budget money for a lawsuit concerning the work environment.

Public Hearing-Consider Purchase of 928 South Avenue.

Barb Church, 102 Wheeler Avenue, appeared before Council and stated she was against tearing down affordable housing. She asked if the City had inspected the house to see if it could be moved. Ms. Church requested clarification on why the City's purchase agreement was for \$125,000 when the home value listed on the Nicollet County Assessor's website was \$93,500. Kim Spears, 916 South Avenue, appeared before Council and expressed his concern that if the City purchased the property, it would be taken off the tax roles. Mr. Spears stated the resolution also dispensed with having the Planning Commission review if the purchase would affect the Comprehensive Plan. He said he believed the purchase of the property would affect the Comprehensive Plan and the Planning Commission should review the purchase.

Consent Agenda

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

- A. Bills and Appropriations.
- B. Res. No. 71-17 Approving Donations/Contributions/Grants.
- C. Approved Large Group and Audio Permit for Smith/Ludewig Wedding at Spring Lake Park Shelter #2 on September 1, 2018, from 9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- D. Approved Large Group and Audio Permit for MN River Builders Association After Hours Event at 424 Belgrade Avenue on October 17, 2017, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- E. Accepted Property Owner Petition to Municipality for Annexation by Ordinance by Chad Harrison.
- F. Res. No. 72-17 Approving Consent Assessment Agreement-424 South Avenue.
- G. Received October Traffic and Safety Committee Meeting Reports.

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

Public Comments Concerning Business Items on the Agenda

Barb Church, 102 Wheeler Avenue, appeared before Council and stated she believed the City should send out the swim facility bid with more lead time to allow more bidders the opportunity to bid.

Tom Hagen, 927 Lake Street, appeared before Council and stated he does not believe the City should include any amenities in the Spring Lake Swim Facility work.

Phil Henry, 1300 Noretta Drive, appeared before Council and stated he was in favor of updating the pool, but the City does not need to spend the money proposed.

Business Items

Res. No. 73-17 Supporting Pursuit of 2017 Local Road Improvement Program Funding from the Minnesota Department of Transportation for the Commerce Drive Improvement Project. City Engineer Sarff appeared before Council and stated in 2017 the Minnesota Legislature appropriated \$25.3 million in bond funds statewide to the Local Roads Improvement Program. This is a competitive grant opportunity available to cities, counties, and townships throughout the state. Selected projects from cities with populations over 5,000 can receive up to \$1,000,000 in grant funds. The City received \$908,000 in federal funding through the Surface Transportation Program (STP) for the Commerce Drive improvement project. The total estimated cost is \$1,984,200, leaving approximately \$1,076,000 to be paid from Municipal State Aid or local funds. It is recommended that a funding application for \$1,000,000 be submitted under the current Local Roads Improvement Program solicitation for the Commerce Drive project. **Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner to adopt Res. No. 73-17 Supporting Pursuit of 2017 Local Road Improvement Program Funding from the Minnesota Department of Transportation for the Commerce Drive Improvement Project. Vote on the motion: Steiner, Norland, Whitlock and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

Res. No. 74-17 Authorizing the Purchase of Real Estate Located at 928 South Avenue and Dispensing with Requirements Under Minnesota Statute 462.356 Subdivision 2. City Administrator Harrenstein stated the property abuts the North Mankato Police Department on the South. The property is available due to the death of the property owner. City Administrator Harrenstein noted the City believes it is prudent to purchase the property for when the facility needs to be expanded. He stated no decisions have been made concerning the use of the property. He said in response to a question asked during the public hearing that the purchase price was the lowest price the existing owners were willing to take. Mayor Dehen requested clarification on the condition of the property. Administrator Harrenstein stated it was dated but in good condition. He said Public Works Director Swanson would need to review the property to see if it was eligible for moving. Attorney Kennedy stated this action is similar to what Immanuel Saint Joseph and Bethany College have done by expanding their campuses when properties become available. Administrator Harrenstein stated the City is dispensing with Minnesota Statute 462.356 Subdivision 2 for two reasons. First, the sellers are anxious to dispose of the property. Second, there would be no impact to the Comprehensive Plan as the property abuts the Police Annex and would either be zoned as R1 or Public Land and would not change the character of the Comprehensive Plan. Council Member Norland stated the purchase was a good idea. Mayor Dehen indicated it was an opportunity to expand the campus without condemning buildings. **Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland to adopt Res. No. 74-17 Authorizing the Purchase of Real Estate Located at 928 South Avenue and Dispensing with Requirements Under Minnesota Statute 462.356 Subdivision 2. Vote on the motion: Steiner, Norland, Whitlock and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

USAquatics Provided an Update on the Spring Lake Park Swim Facility. Tom Schaffer, President of USAquatics, appeared before Council and stated the bid letting at the end of September resulted in one non-responsive bid. He stated USAquatics suggests rebidding the project early next year with a construction start date in early August or rebid this year and lose most of the swim season next year for construction. City Administrator Harrenstein stated he agreed with Mr. Schaffer's assessment and due to the continued use of the pool, more than 7500 people in 2017, he recommended bidding the project in early 2018 for construction beginning in late 2018. City Administrator Harrenstein indicated that the cost might be greater than anticipated. The Spring Lake Swim Facility was the only debt issuance planned for 2017, and maybe the City would need to consider allocating 2017 and a portion of the 2018 debt issuance to complete the project, but only if the Council is comfortable with the allocation. He stated during North Kato Ideas the citizens placed a high priority on the Swim Facility. City Administrator Harrenstein noted that \$400,000 of the anticipated cost was for the warming house and \$400,000 for the amenities and the remaining was for the upgrade of the swim facility.

City Administrator and Staff Comments

City Administrator Harrenstein thanked New Creation World Outreach church for their 50-year presence in the City and the thank you notes from the church congregants. He also extended thanks to the \$17,000 donation to the Police Department.

Finance Director McCann stated the second Brewing up the Budget session would be held on Tuesday, October 17th at 6:00 pm at Neutral Groundz.

Public Works Director Swanson stated it was another successful junk drop-off. He extended his gratitude to the City of North Mankato employees and the Dotson Foundry employees who assisted.

Public Works Director Swanson reported leaf collection would begin on October 17, 2017, and continue until all leaves are collected or weather no longer permits continued pick-up.

Mayor and Council Comments

Council Member Norland reported Community Education, and Recreation is continuing to grow and respond to local needs by providing classes for the area's refugees, providing Adult Basic Education classes (over 253 students), and ACES, an after-school program has over 1000 students at eleven locations.

Council Member Norland reported she attended a Sustainable Cities conference and stated the STAR framework is a guideline for sustainable communities. The framework includes the built environment, climate and energy, economy and jobs, education, arts and community, equity and empowerment, health and safety and natural systems. Council Member Norland stated the City is ahead because the following are already taking place: energy audits on buildings, looking at solar energy, creating a natural, sustainable environment at Benson Park & Bluff Park, ponds at new building sites, funds to help residents upgrade their homes, bike paths and sidewalks, community input meetings, working on water quality and many more.

Council Member Steiner stated the public comment policy was adopted in July and it is time for the Council to review the policy.

Mayor Dehen read a letter from the Anthony Ford Pond Hockey Committee. The letter stated the Anthony Ford Pond Hockey Committee visited the Spring Lake Park rink project and were excited about the work. The committee stated that once the project is completed, it will be the premier outdoor skating facility in Southern Minnesota. The committee has agreed to the use of a construction trailer for a warming house this hockey season. They reported some frustration that the warming house project is now contingent on the swim facility upgrade. The committee requested that the new warming house addition be usable by the 2018-2019 skating season. The committee reported they look forward to the 10th annual Anthony Ford Pond Hockey Classic on January 27th & 28th in Spring Lake Park.

Mayor Dehen read a thank you note from Messiah Lutheran Church for the City's continued support of the neighborhood night out.

Mayor Dehen read a thank you note from Greater Mankato Bike & Walk.

There being no further business, on a motion by Council Member Norland, seconded by Council Member Steiner, the meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk