

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 September 17, 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, and Norland, City Administrator Harrenstein, Finance Director McCann, Attorney Kennedy, Community Development Director Fischer, Public Works Director Host, and City Clerk Van Genderen. Absent: Council Members Freyberg and Whitlock.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Council Work Session Meeting Minutes

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to approve the minutes of the Council Work Session meeting of September 4, 2018. Vote on the motion: Steiner, Norland, 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 September 4, 2018. Vote on the motion: Steiner, Norland, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Proclamation

Mayor Dehen read the following Proclamation into the record:

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States of America, the guardian of our liberties, embodies the principles of limited government in a Republic dedicated to rule by law; and

WHEREAS, September 17, 2018, marks the two-hundred-thirty-first anniversary of the framing of the Constitution of the United States of America by the Constitutional Convention; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to accord official recognition to this magnificent document and its memorable anniversary, and to the patriotic celebrations which will commemorate it; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 915 guarantees the issuing of a proclamation each year by the President of the United States of America designating September 17 through 23 as Constitution Week.

NOW THEREFORE I, Mark Dehen, Mayor of North Mankato, by virtue of the power vested in me as Mayor of the City of North Mankato do hereby proclaim September 17 through 23 as:

CONSTITUTION WEEK

And ask our citizens to reaffirm the ideals the Framers of the Constitution had in 1787 by vigilantly protecting the freedoms guaranteed to us through this guardian of our liberties.

Susan Hinz, Regent for the Anthony Wayne Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, appeared before Council and thanked the Mayor for the proclamation recognizing the Constitution of the United States of America.

Public Hearing, 7 p.m.-Consider Ordinance No. 109, Amending Chapter 154.05, Prohibited Signs

Community Development Director Fischer reported the proposed Ordinance would allow painting on exterior walls. It is a response to an increased interest in public art. In the past, the Ordinance had been used to deny painting, but if Council would like to allow City approved public art, they would need to pass Ordinance No. 109.

Consent Agenda

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to approve the Consent Agenda.

- A. Bills and Appropriations.
- B. Res. No. 71-18 Approving Donations/Contributions/Grants.
- C. Approved Mobile Home Park Permits for CAL-AM Properties, Inc. as the new owners of Avalon & Camelot Estates.
- D. Approved Park and Audio Permit for Mankato Area's Walk for Recovery on September 29, 2018, from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm.
- E. Approved Licenses for Soft Drink, 3.2 Beer Off-Sale and Cigarette Sales for Northern Tier Retail, LLC located at 201 Webster Avenue.

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

Public Comments Concerning Business Items on the Agenda

Stefanie Jaquette, 509 Wheeler Avenue, appeared before Council expressed concerns about the proposed tax levy, stated residents support the TIF through taxes, supported Benson Park completion, approved of public input sessions and supported the Safe Routes to School projects.

Phil Henry, 1300 Noretta Drive, appeared before Council and stated his taxes continue to increase along with his property value.

Business Items

Res. No. 72-18 Resolution Approving Proposed Tax Rate.

City Administrator Harrenstein stated based on feedback during the Council Work Session Finance Director McCann has a proposed amendment to the resolution. Finance Director McCann stated that a .5% decrease in the tax rate would set the general levy at \$6,934,509 an increase of \$39,112 from the levy presented in the resolution of \$6,895,397. This is the preliminary tax levy and can be decreased, but not increased in December. Mayor Dehen stated that over the past four years the Council had decreased the tax rate by 3%, he acknowledged property taxes have increased from County, School, and City due to increased valuations. He stated some is from the Tax Increment Financing because the City is attracting additional people and businesses to the area which creates a supply and demand, increasing valuations. **Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner to adopt the Amendment to the Resolution. Vote on the motion: Steiner, Norland, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried. Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner to adopt the Amended Resolution Approving Proposed Tax Rate. Vote on the motion: Steiner, Norland, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

Ordinance No. 109, Amending Chapter 154.05 Prohibited Signs.

Noelle Lawton, Executive Director of the Twin Rivers Council for the Arts, appeared before Council and stated one of the four grant recipients is a traditional mural on the NaKato. Ms. Lawton noted that during the process it was discovered that the City has an Ordinance that prevents painting on exterior buildings. She indicated that during the public art process there was a lot of interest in murals. City Administrator Harrenstein reported Council could decide to approve murals or they could continue to deny. He thanked Ms. Lawton for her work on the Public Art Plan and her continued work on the grants by interacting with the artists and working with the City to promote an increased quality of life. Mayor Dehen requested clarification on the materials standards. Ms. Lawton reported that was a part of an artist's qualifications. Attorney Kennedy requested clarification on the proposed mural. Ms. Lawton stated the mural would be a single artist and not a community art mural. Attorney Kennedy also wanted to know who would approve the proposed mural before it was painted. Mayor Dehen stated the Council for the Arts would screen the art before bringing it to the Council for approval. **Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland to Adopt Ordinance No. 109, Amending Chapter 154.05 Prohibited Signs. Vote on the motion: Steiner, Norland, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

Open Forum

Phil Henry, 1300 Noretta Drive, stated the Council approved a mural in lower North Mankato five or six years ago.

Stefanie Jaquette, 509 Wheeler Avenue, appeared before Council and stated she supported public involvement, decreasing the public speaking guidelines, promoted consent agenda guidelines and welcomed public involvement in government.

Lucy Lowery, 2263 North Ridge Drive, appeared before Council and stated she supported the completion of Benson Park and restrooms at Fallenstein Field. She requested \$15,000-\$20,000 be set aside for new chairs and tables in the Police Annex.

Sandra Oachs, 230 Abbywood Lane, appeared before Council and stated if the Ordinance allowing public murals is approved the bar she owned Spinner's would be interested in working with the Council for the Arts and the City Council to have a mural placed on their back wall. Mayor Dehen requested Ms. Oachs, who is a member of Business on Belgrade, inform the Council about the upcoming Bier on Belgrade. Ms. Oachs reported the event would be held on Saturday, September 22, 2018, from noon to 10:00 p.m. There would be live music and craft and domestic beer would be available.

City Administrator and Staff Comments

City Administrator Harrenstein reported to Council Member Steiner that the City had contacted the City of Mankato concerning locating new bus stops, he indicated he had not received a reply concerning the request.

City Administrator Harrenstein reported at the last Council Meeting the Chromey's had reported a traffic issue at North Ridge and Quail Roost Drive. He reported Community Development Director Fischer and himself went up for a site visit. He stated one-factor limiting visibility at the corner is trees that impede the line of site. The Parks Department will be removing two trees and trimming a third to improve the line of site hopefully.

Public Works Director Host reported the Swim Facility and the Warming House are moving in the right direction.

Mayor and Council Comments

Mayor Dehen stated he had received some thank you notes from South Central College scholarship recipients who received scholarships that the City sponsors.

There being no further business, on a motion by Council Member Norland, seconded by Council Member Steiner, the meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk