

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 5, 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 Norland, Whitlock, and Steiner, City Administrator Harrenstein, Finance Director McCann, City Attorney Kennedy, Community Development Director Fischer, Public Works Director Swanson and City Clerk Van Genderen. Absent: Council Member Freyberg.

Approval of Agenda

Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to approve the agenda as presented. Vote on the motion: Norland, Whitlock, Steiner, 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 August 21, 2017. Vote on the motion: Whitlock, Steiner, and Dehen aye; abstain Norland. No nays. Motion carried.

Proclamation

Mayor Dehen read a Constitution Week 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, 2017, marks the two-hundred-thirtieth 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.

Daughter of the American Revolution Regent Susan Hynes received the proclamation and stated the Anthony Wayne Chapter was not a political organization, but encourages citizens to protect the Constitution of the United States of America.

Public Hearing-Public Comments on the 2018 Proposed Budget.

City Administrator Harrenstein indicated that since the 2018 Proposed Budget has been released the City will be taking Public Comment on the budget during the Council Meetings. Barb Church, 102

Wheeler Avenue, appeared before Council and encouraged citizens to take the opportunity to address the Council on the budget.

Public Hearing-Proposed Property Tax Abatement for the Spring Lake Park Swim Facility Improvement Project. Tammy Omdal, Northland Securities, appeared before Council and stated the resolution the Council would be considering following the Public Hearing would authorize up to 3.3 million in tax abatement. Ms. Omdal said the project had not been bid, and the full amount may not be necessary. Phil Henry, 1300 Noretta Drive, appeared before Council and said he approved of fixing the pool, but requested clarification on why the City was pursuing the sand bottom pool, indicating maintaining the sand bottom pool was expensive due to wear and tear on equipment. Mr. Henry also argued against making the pool into a water park when other water parks were nearby, and one was proposed in Mankato. Mr. Henry stated operating costs had not been discussed and he urged the Council to reconsider. Barb Church, 102 Wheeler Avenue, appeared before Council and stated she was concerned about using the financing mechanism of tax abatement. She expressed concern that if tax abatement were used too frequently there would be nothing left to fund streets and public safety. Tom Hagen, 927 Lake Street, appeared before Council and stated the upgrades would be a waste of funds, indicating he approved of repairing the facility but did not approve of adding any additional amenities. He stated the pool project should go before the Intergovernmental Committee for discussion with Mankato.

Consent Agenda

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

- A. Bills and Appropriations.
- B. Res. No. 57-17 Approving Donations/Contributions/Grants.
- C. Approved Labor Agreement between the City of North Mankato and North Mankato Police Department Lieutenants Law Enforcement Labor Services, Inc. (Local No. 394).
- D. Res. No. 58-17 Waiving Waiting Period for Exemption from Lawful Gambling License for Holy Rosary Church.

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

Public Comments

None.

Business Items

Res. No. 60-17 Approving Property Tax Abatements. Administrator Harrenstein responded to some of the questions raised during the Public Hearing. Administrator Harrenstein stated it was determined to maintain the sand bottom swim facility because it has been sand bottom for 50 years. The City reviewed the cost to transition to concrete bottom, but it was cost prohibitive, costing between 8 and 10 million dollars. Administrator Harrenstein reported that of the 2.4 million proposed to upgrade the swim facility, 1.8 to 1.9 million is for infrastructure; not amenities. Approximately \$400,000 to \$450,000 is allocated for amenities including a rock wall to jump off, zip-line, and a small section for toddlers. Additional amenities including slides have been removed from the plan, and the City will request contributions to fund those amenities. Administrator Harrenstein stated the tax abatement resolution has a 3.3 million not to exceed amount and City staff will not support a project that exceeds that amount. He stated the financing mechanism of tax abatement has been used in the

past for projects that do not qualify for other forms of financing. Administrator Harrenstein reviewed the City's tax levy which has two levers; one for the General Fund and one for the Debt Service Fund. He stated the tax abatement would not endanger the City's ability to maintain services. Mayor Dehen stated the Spring Lake Park Swim Facility was identified by the citizens of North Mankato as a high priority for improvement. **Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner to Adopt Res. No. 60-17 Approving Property Tax Abatements. Vote on the motion: Norland, Whitlock, Steiner, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

Consider Information on Spring Lake Park Turtle Migration (Tom Hagen). Tom Hagen appeared before Council and reported observing that snapping turtles seem to no longer migrate due to the sidewalk and fence the City installed along Lake Street. He stated the City should backfill along the sidewalk and raise the fence to allow the turtles to travel up the slope. Council Member Steiner reported he has seen snapping turtles at Spring Lake Park. City Administrator Harrenstein recommended Council refer the issue to the Greenway Committee for review and the Greenway Committee would produce a written response.

Res. No. 59-17 Authorizing USAquatics to Advertise for Bids Project No. 17-04 2017 Spring Lake Park Swim Facility Upon Written Authorization by the City Administrator and Public Works Director. City Administrator Harrenstein reported the plans included in the packet were the first draft and City staff would ask for additional time to review, but recommended authorization to allow the staff to move forward following revisions. Council Member Steiner requested clarification on if there would be time to remove amenities if the Council desires. Administrator Harrenstein reported items could still be removed. **Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland to Adopt Res. No. 59-17 Authorizing USAquatics to Advertise for Bids Project No. 17-04 2017 Spring Lake Park Swim Facility Upon Written Authorization by the City Administrator and Public Works Director. Vote on the motion: Norland, Whitlock, Steiner, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

City Administrator and Staff Comments

City Administrator Harrenstein stated he received a Thank-you note from United Way.

Public Works Director Swanson reported City staff should begin pouring the cement for the hockey rinks within the next week.

Mayor and Council Comments

Council Member Steiner stated he would like to review the new public comment format following the 90-days.

Mayor Dehen stated he received thank you notes from South Central scholarship recipients.

Mayor Dehen stated he received a letter from the Coalition of Greater Minnesota outlining accomplishments and goals; along with dues which are based on population.

Mayor Dehen reported Bier on Belgrade would be held from 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Saturday, September 23, 2017.

There being no further business, on a motion by Council Member Steiner, seconded by Council Member Norland, the meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk