

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Council Open Forum of the North Mankato City Council was held in the Municipal Building Council Chambers on January 16, 2018. Mayor Dehen called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m. The following were present for roll call: Mayor Dehen, Council Members Steiner, Norland, Freyberg and Whitlock, and City Clerk Van Genderen.

Open Forum

Mayor Dehen welcomed the citizens to the Open Forum and noted the forum would be limited to 15 minutes and each speaker to 3-minutes.

Council Member Steiner stated he believed the open forum should be videotaped, citizens should not be limited to returning to a topic after 90-days and questioned why the administration did not attend.

Lucy Lowry, 2263 Northridge Drive, appeared before Council and reported she read the Mankato Free Press and noted Mankato was completing a long-range plan. She reviewed North Mankato's Strategic Plan, and she believes it is more of a one year plan than a plan that looks at long-term broader issues. She stated she reviewed the Comprehensive Plan and noted the plan looks at infrastructure and expansion, but she did not believe it addressed issues like public transportation and rental options for immigrants. Ms. Lowry indicated Council should consider mirroring Mankato and address issues like tourism, affordable daycare, the larger community, and concentrate on continued growth. She stated she believed it should be a staff, Council and resident effort. Mayor Dehen stated the City Council held a strategic planning session and addressed the ideas that were brought forth including housing and transportation. He also reported staff and Council Members are on regional boards and committees that are exploring the broader issues. Cities, Colleges, and Universities recently met and discussed Envision 2040 which is addressing community-wide issues such as affordable daycare, transportation, and other community issues. Mayor Dehen reported the entire community would be brought in to work on these issues.

Tom Hagen, 927 Lake Street, stated he hoped everyone read the Free Press article about the Louisiana School Teacher who was arrested after questioning the Superintendent's raise. He noted the Free Press wrote that every member of the public should be able to voice their opinion and public officials should be receptive to public comments. He said the Council should reconsider the public comment format.

Mayor Dehen closed the Open Forum at 8:21 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk