

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 2, 2018. Mayor Dehen called the meeting to order at 7:51 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.

Stefanie Jaquette, 509 Wheeler Avenue, appeared before Council and stated she disagreed with eliminating the Public Comment period. She said she did not believe public comment should be limited and having a public comment period encourages Council accountability. Ms. Jaquette stated she attended the League of Minnesota Cities led Council Workshop and agreed that it is good practice to allow open comments.

Tom Hagen, 927 Lake Street, appeared before Council and stated if the purpose of changing the comment period was to increase citizen involvement he believed it failed. He requested Council return to the two comment periods during the Council Meeting.

Kim Spears, 916 South Avenue, appeared before Council and stated he believed the changes to the comment period were repressively designed to suppress citizens. He requested City Council return to an open forum during the regular Council Meeting.

Phil Henry, 1300 Noretta Drive, appeared before Council and stated he did not believe the open forum would be transparent because it was not being videotaped. He said he believed citizen involvement prevented the City from going broke.

Mayor Dehen stated that because this was an Open Forum the Council could respond to citizens or ask questions.

Council Member Steiner stated he believed the open forum should be a part of the regular Council Meeting so it would be videotaped.

Mayor Dehen stated this is an attempt at a compromise allowing citizens to comment on items that are not on the agenda. He said he was going to work at being more consistent at applying the rules. Mayor Dehen reported Council would continue to have Open Forums after the Council Meeting. Council could always review the Open Forum platform.

Mayor Dehen closed the Open Forum at 8:03 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk