

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 March 5, 2018. Mayor Dehen called the meeting to order at 8:03 p.m. The following were present for roll call: Mayor Dehen, Council Members Freyberg, Steiner, and Norland, and City Clerk Van Genderen. Absent: Council Member Whitlock.

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.

Tom Hagen, 927 Lake Street, thanked Council Member Freyberg for his presentation on the spring flora in Bluff Park and Benson Park. He indicated that his ravine did not look like that and requested a deer count. Council Member Norland stated a deer count would cost somewhere around \$700 an hour for the helicopter. Council Member Freyberg noted that during a visit to Mr. Hagen's property a few years ago he noted it was a perfect habitat for deer.

Stefanie Jaquette, 509 Wheeler Avenue, requested information on if the City Council would be completing an 18-month study of the rental density cap. She indicated she wanted information on if the cap was increasing rental property prices as this was important to many people. Mayor Dehen reported volunteer firefighters were being trained to conduct inspections of rental properties to ensure living conditions and building codes were being met by all rentals.

Council Members discussed the T21 Ordinance that was passed on February 5, 2018, the discussion centered around Council action considering the City of Mankato did not pass a similar ordinance. Council Member Norland stated she would like to publish the Ordinance and enforce the changes. Mayor Dehen indicated he would want to leave the Ordinance on the books but not implement it. Council Member Freyberg stated he was torn because the agreement in the Intergovernmental Committee was that if one City did not pass the Ordinance, the other City would not move forward. Council Member Steiner said he did not believe this should be municipal law; rather it should be a State law. Mayor Dehen indicated the topic would be visited at the next Council Meeting.

Mayor Dehen closed the Open Forum at 8:15 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk