

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Council Work Session of the North Mankato City Council was held in the Parks Department at 2005 Carlson Drive on April 22, 2019. Mayor Dehen called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. The following were present for roll call: Mayor Dehen, Council Members Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, and Oachs, City Administrator Harrenstein, Finance Director McCann, Public Works Director Host, Community Development Director Fischer, Library Director Heintz, City Engineer Sarff, and City Clerk Van Genderen. Council Member Oachs arrived at 12:05 p.m. Council Member Steiner left the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Ravine Setbacks and Breaklines

Community Development Director Fischer reported the memo included in the packet responded to the questions raised at the April 15th Council Meeting concerning the proposed Planning Commission’s recommendation to reduce the ravine breakline setback for swimming pools. He reported that in 2000, the City Council passed Ordinance No. 194 which established a 25-foot ravine breakline setback for various structures including in-ground swimming pools and the ravine breakline was determined by the building inspector. Staff is trained to identify the breakline and has been determining the breakline since 2000. The code change requested by Richard Sawatsky and recommended by the Planning Commission included the following language:

<u>Pool Type</u>	<u>Property Type</u>	<u>Minimum Rear Yard Setbacks</u>
In- Ground	Non Ravine	Rear-10 feet
In- Ground	Ravine	Rear-10 feet with the provision that upon inspection of the ravine by City staff, the setback can be increased to 25 feet
Above-Ground	Non Ravine	Rear-10 feet
Above-Ground	Ravine	Rear -25 feet

Community Development Director Fischer reported the Planning Commission was confident that on-site inspections by the Building Inspector, Public Works Director and City Engineer using specific criteria would effectively evaluate conditions to protect ravines. A form has been developed to help review the criteria.

Mayor Dehen requested language in the code ensures the City establishes the breakline. Council Member Norland noted she appreciated the criteria and the collective review of the ravine. Council Member Whitlock requested clarification on the breakline. City Engineer Sarff reported the breakline is where the property begins to break toward the ravine. City Administrator Harrenstein reported the breakline is noted on plats. City Administrator Harrenstein asked if City Code had similar setbacks for decks, sheds, and treehouses. Community Development Director Fischer reported there were and the Planning Commission was interested in possibly reviewing those items as well.

City Administrator Harrenstein requested clarification that the proposed changes to the City Code would not endanger the ravines. City Engineer Sarff reported that once the pool is excavated the water weighs less than the dirt and the pools support themselves. A large percentage of existing ravines will not have a problem, and that is why he is comfortable with a 10-foot setback and going back to 25 feet if problems are identified. Council Member Oachs requested clarification on why a change was enacted in 2000. Community Development Director Fischer reported following a 10.5-inch rain a ravine on Oak Terrace Drive prompted the Ordinance. Mayor Dehen requested if there

were additional questions. Council Member Whitlock expressed concern over the proposed code changes. City Engineer Sarff reported engineering supports the suggested change with the language requiring City review of the ravine and setbacks and requiring increased setbacks if the ravine is unstable. Mayor Dehen stated he would support the proposed changes if the code required City determination of the breakline. City Administrator Harrenstein clarified that if someone begins digging without checking with the City they would be in violation of City Code and that would need to be corrected before the completion of the swimming pool. Based on the proposed criteria the line is the line and can back up but cannot go forward.

Carol Court/Marvin Blvd Lift Station Update

Public Works Director Host reviewed the map provided in the packet indicating the location of the Marvin Boulevard and Carol Court lift stations. He reported the Marvin Blvd lift station is responsible for both Marvin Boulevard and Valerie Lane. The station pumps up the hill to Carol Court and the Carol Court lift and then pumps over to Mary Lane and is gravity fed down. The challenges with the two lift stations include inadequately sized pumps. During heavy rain events City, staff must man the Marvin Blvd. station and manually control the pumps and it must be jetted out and moved to the gravity feed. During the last heavy rainfall, the pumps at both Marvin and Carol Court were on manual mode for 36 hours with both City staff and Seppman trucks pumping out the lifts. Public Works Director Host reported improvements are included in the Capital Improvement Plan and this is an update on how the City will be moving forward. The first step is to alleviate the two lift stations going into one conduit, bids for the project will go out in summer to early fall. Once that is completed the next step would be to upgrade the pumps. After each step, the City will review function and determine next steps. City Administrator Harrenstein clarified the project was a part of the 2019 Budget.

North Mankato Taylor Library Update

Library Director Heintz reported 19,000 people had visited the library between January and March of 2019. The library supported over 180 programs with 2200 people in attendance. Library Director Heintz stated the library has a lot of events planned for the summer including Bookin' on Belgrade, Summer Reading, ArtSplash, Movies in the Park, and Music in the Park. She announced the library is lending out WiFi HotSpots for citizens. The Community Read program just wrapped up with 500 books given away in 2-days and 206 attendees to the three events. Director Heintz reported proposed programs include Karaoke night, a fundraiser in Bluff Park and a Spelling Bee.

Controlled Prairie Burns and Prairie Restoration

Park Foreman Lobitz reported both Bluff Park and Benson Park prairies would be burned in late April and early May. The purpose is to kill invasive plants and allow native prairie grasses to grow. The burns do not kill prairie grasses because of their deep roots. Park Foreman Lobitz reported the plan is to burn the prairies every three years.

Emerald Ash Borer

Park Foreman Lobitz reported the Emerald Ash Borer is headed to the area and in 2017 the City injected trees at Caswell Park to protect them from the borer. Treatment is only effective for two years and will need to be repeated. Future plantings at Caswell will be diversified. Public Works Director Host reported staff has been using the GIS system to identify ash trees so when the borer arrives City staff can pinpoint areas of high ash tree density.

Wellhead Protection Plan/Source Water Grant/Well 1

Water and Park Superintendent Duane Rader reported the City adopted a Wellhead Protection Plan in 2017. The City must ensure that no infiltration is allowed into current wells which require the City to know all of the old wells and ensure that they are capped. The City applied for and was awarded a \$10,000 grant to locate Well 1, dig it up and ensure that it is capped. Well, No. 1 was located in what is now Centennial Park. Superintendent Rader reported the well is only 325 feet deep.

Water and Park Superintendent Rader reported the Parks Department applied for and was awarded a \$1500 grant from the MPCA to replace gas tools with battery powered tools. The City will be able to purchase five trimmers, two blowers, one chainsaw, and six batteries.

Water and Park Superintendent Rader reported the City has a new sewer camera system. The old system was over 20 years old and still recorded on VHS. The new system has a flash drive and an external back up. Public Works Director Host reported the system could also integrate with the GIS system and the recordings stored.

Water and Park Superintendent Rader also showed the Council the new mowers recently purchased by the Parks Department. The mowers work double duty by providing snow removal in the winter and mowing in the summer.

Tour of the Parks Department

Water and Park Superintendent Rader provided a tour of the Parks Department.

Mayor Dehen closed the Council Work Session at 1:00 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk