

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Council Work Session of the North Mankato City Council was held in the Street Department at 610 Webster Avenue on April 8, 2019. Mayor Dehen called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. The following were present for roll call: Mayor Dehen, Council Members Steiner, Whitlock, and Norland, City Administrator Harrenstein, Finance Director McCann, Public Works Director Host, Street Superintendent Ling, City Engineer Sarff, and City Clerk Van Genderen. Council Member Oachs arrived at 12:05 p.m.

Benson Parking Lot Entryway

City Administrator Harrenstein noted Public Works Director Host reviewed the proposed parking lot at Benson Park and requested a review of the entrance due to possible traffic constraints. As currently designed, travelers approaching from the east would need to go past the entry and do a u-turn and drivers exiting the parking lot would not be able to turn west. City Engineer Sarff presented three options and reported Option 1, would align the parking lot exit with Fairbanks Drive, Option 2 would remove a portion of the median to accommodate full access, and Option 3 would completely remove the median and create a left turn lane. City staff recommends option 1. Mayor Dehen indicated he supported option one because it aligned the access points which will cause fewer issues in the future. City Engineer Sarff indicated the Parking Lot project has already been bid so a few modifications will need to be made. He reported the number of stalls would remain the same. Mayor Dehen noted a walking trail goes through the proposed parking lot and requested modifications to accommodate the trail. City Engineer Sarff reported that would be possible. City Administrator Harrenstein requested clarification on the start date. City Engineer Sarff reported a firm date has yet to be established by WW. Blacktopping who was awarded the contract, and they indicated it was planned for early in the construction season. Public Works Director Host noted a Public Works Employee reported the issue and he thanked them for bringing it to his attention.

Proposed Ravine Improvement Project

City Administrator Harrenstein reported City staff presented a ravine report to City Council on February 11, 2019, and staff has continued to review the ravines and have continued planning on how to manage the ravines. City Engineer Sarff reported a very large watershed, 630 acres, discharges into the North Ridge ravine. The existing land use within the watershed area is mostly commercial and industrial in nature, and most of the development occurred prior to the stormwater management requirements that are in place today, so there is very little stormwater ponding. The storm sewer pipe that discharges into the ravine is 72 inches in diameter. The pipe only extends approximately 400 feet from the head of the ravine at Pleasant View Drive. Downstream from the pipe, the ravine exhibits varying levels of erosion, in some areas quite severe. City Engineer Sarff reviewed proposed options for addressing and correcting the problems in the ravine. The work includes clearing fallen trees within the storm sewer/fill area, extending 72" storm sewer through the area, filing over and adjacent to the pipe to a depth of approximately 2 feet above the pipe, constructing riprap check dams at each inlet "pushing" fill up into the slopes of slope failure areas, temporary erosion control and permanent turf establishment in the ravine and adjacent areas. This approach has been successful in several other ravines throughout the City resulting in permanent solutions to the erosion and other problems in those ravines. Due to the size of approximately 3,200 feet, the estimated cost for the improvement would be \$3.1 million. The staff is recommending allocating funding for ravine improvement in the annual capital improvement plan and completing the improvement in segments that would cost approximately \$700,000 to 800,000 a year. Discussion was held about increasing the number of holding ponds and searching for sites to add ponds to slow down the water moving into the ravines. Mayor Dehen specifically requested additional information on a possible holding pond on Commerce Drive, in the

industrial park, and also in the Northridge Park as these areas have issues with ponding and draining. City Engineer Sarff reported both areas could be investigated.

2019 Bond Issue Summary

City Administrator Harrenstein presented a brief overview of the proposed bond issuance for 2019. He reported the bond would include \$730,000 for the City's match for the Commerce Drive improvement, \$730,000 for the ravine improvement, and \$540,000 for the Tyler Avenue Project for a total projected bond issuance of \$1.99 million. City Administrator Harrenstein reported City staff would prepare additional information and present it to Council.

Mayor Dehen requested staff pursue working with MnDOT to establish additional holding ponds to help slow water moving into the ravines. Council Member Norland requested clarification on the effect the ravine improvements would have on Minnesota River water quality. City Engineer Sarff reported it would improve the quality and they have been looking at obtaining Legacy Funds from the State.

City Administrator Harrenstein reported the City would be patching a portion of Northridge Drive and the plan is to complete mil & overlay on the road in 2020. Council Member Steiner reported he had received concerns about Belvista Drive. City staff reported it would be reviewed. City Administrator Harrenstein requested the Council drive through Houghton Avenue and LorRay Drive and report back on which section of road should be completed first.

Tour of the Street Department

Street Superintendent Ling provided a tour of the Street Department.

Mayor Dehen closed the Council Work Session at 12:50 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk