

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Council Work Session of the North Mankato City Council was held in the Council Chambers on June 8, 2020. Mayor Dehen called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. The following were present remotely through Zoom for roll call: Council Members Steiner, Norland, Oachs, Whitlock, and Mayor Dehen, City Administrator Harrenstein, City Attorney Kennedy, Finance Director McCann, Caswell Sports Director Tostenson, Library Director Heintz, Aquatics Programming Director Sands and City Clerk Van Genderen. Citizen monitoring was available through a conference call.

Discuss Swim Facility Reopening Plans

City Administrator Harrenstein reported on June 5, 2020, Governor Walz announced the reopening of swim facilities at 50% capacity beginning on June 10, 2020. City Administrator Harrenstein said the facility's capacity is 1406 people, but to maintain social distancing the City staff is recommending a maximum of up to 700 people. He stated Aquatics Programming Director Bekah Sands and Library Director Katie Heintz have been working through the new information and will have additional information on the general opening of the pool at the next Council Meeting on June 15, 2020. He stated they have swimming lesson guidelines available for review today. Aquatics Programming Director Sands reported they have been developing a plan that follows CDC and MDH guidelines for opening the swim facility during COVID-19. She noted some of the changes include a staff member in charge of sanitizing and cleaning, circles painted onto the turf for social distancing, guests arriving in swimsuits, and parent involvement in swim lessons. Swimming lessons would begin on June 15, 2020. The facility is full of water, and they are balancing the chemicals and conducting staff training. Discussion was held concerning the use of blocks of time and moving people in and out of the facility. City Administrator Harrenstein commented that the cap would be 700 people, and the facility may need to turn people away to maintain compliance with the governor's orders. Mayor Dehen said that he thought it would be a good idea to start with a limited amount of people, allow staff to adjust to the new routines, and then begin increasing the number of people allowed in the facility. Council Member Oachs noted she received communication from Nicollet County that discussed dedicating one person to managing social distancing. She indicated the new rules are overwhelming, and it is a good idea to begin slowly to allow adjustments. Attorney Kennedy requested clarification on the management of the number of people in the facility. Aquatics Programming Director Sands reported they are still discussing how to manage the entrance and exit. She commented that a fully developed plan would be provided on June 15, and swim lessons begin on June 15.

Discuss Caswell Sports Reopening

Caswell Sports Director Tostenson reported Caswell is working with the Minnesota Department of Health to clarify the reopening of the fields. The plans include additional sanitization, limitations on the number of people allowed to attend, and the whole team not utilizing the dugouts. Caswell Sports Director Tostenson noted the first tournament would be held on June 20, 2020, with limited spectators, limited concessions, and social distancing of all teams and spectators.

Discuss Budget Impact of COVID-19

City Administrator Harrenstein reported Finance Director McCann had prepared a memo. Still, with the announcement on Friday by the governor, there have been changes, and staff will prepare a memo for the June 15, 2020 Council Meeting.

Finance Director McCann reported staff was anticipating a \$950,000 to \$1,000,000.00 shortfall across all funds. The shortfall would be due to the lack of Caswell Sports activities, the swim facility not opening on time or at full capacity, and FEMA possibly not providing funds for the repair of streets

on Northridge. With the announcement on Friday, staff will need to update the swim and Caswell Park estimates. He commented that they were anticipating full property taxes for the year with a slight delay of funds due to the extended property tax deadline. Finance Director McCann reported there might be a shortfall in Local Government Aid. Currently, they are anticipating the full amount in July, but there are questions if the total amount will come in December. He noted the utility fund is tracking on budget. There may be sales tax shortfalls, but they are still waiting on projected numbers. Finance Director McCann reported the Department Heads were requested to make a 5% decrease to their budgets to stay within the reduced budget.

City Administrator Harrenstein stated the City might have \$1.2 million in revenue that may or may not be received. The deficit is from the decreased activity at Caswell, the swim facility, deferred land sales in North Port, and decreased revenue from sales tax. Staff is managing those that we are aware of, including department heads reducing their budgets by 5%, and staff has begun implementing those cuts. There are certain shortfalls that the City can only anticipate and includes loss of Local Government Aid and property tax shortfalls. The loss of revenue will inform the 20-21 budget recommendations and probably the 21-22 budget. He noted City staff is preparing for shortfalls and the management of the budget. He commented that building in the City continues, including a new hotel, and home building on track with estimates.

Mayor Dehen commented that the federal government might allocate money to the State, which in turn the State could allocate some to the Cities.

Finance Director McCann reported he attended a Zoom meeting held by the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities, and they discussed the possible federal funds. He said they were anticipating the use of the funds for managing costs associated with COVID-19, and the City has been tracking those expenses. He is anticipating close to \$100,000 in associated costs.

Council Member Oachs commented that she was excited the pool was opening but was concerned about the potential cost to the City.

City Administrator Harrenstein reported the staff would have additional information for the Council on Monday.

Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Oachs, to close the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk