

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the North Mankato City Council was held in the Municipal Building Council Chambers on February 21, 2017. Mayor Dehen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. asking that everyone join in the Pledge of Allegiance. The following were present for roll call: Mayor Dehen, Council Members Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, and Freyberg, City Administrator Harrenstein, Finance Director McCann, City Attorney Kennedy, Community Development Director Fischer, Public Works Director Swanson and City Clerk Van Genderen.

### **Approval of Agenda**

**Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to approve the agenda as presented. Vote on the motion: Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, Freyberg, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

### **Approval of Council Meeting Minutes**

**Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to approve the minutes of the Council meeting of February 6, 2017. Vote on the motion: Whitlock, Norland, Freyberg and Dehen aye; Steiner, abstain. Motion carried.**

### **Consent Agenda**

**Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to approve the Consent Agenda which included:**

- A. Bills and Appropriations.
- B. Res. No. 14-17 Approving Donations/Contributions/Grants.
- C. Approved Temporary Liquor License for Vista Prairie at Monarch Meadows on April 27, 2017.
- D. Set Public Hearing for 7 p.m. on March 6, 2017, for Revision of Code of Ordinances.
- E. Set Public Hearing for 7 p.m. on March 6, 2017, to Consider Amending City Code Chapter 91: Animals.
- F. Res. No. 15-17 Set Rates and Fees.
- G. Res. No. 16-17 Waiving Waiting Period for Exemption from Lawful Gambling License for Holy Rosary Church.

**Vote on the motion: Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, Freyberg and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

### **Public Comments**

Barb Church, 102 Wheeler Avenue, appeared before Council and stated she believed the wrong word was used in the proposed ordinance changes. She did not think 'detention' was the right word to use when referencing a detention pond.

### **Business Items**

**Res. No. 17-17 Requesting the Advance of Municipal State Aid Funds for Municipal Construction Projects.** City Engineer Dan Sarff stated he would discuss both the Advance of Municipal State Aid Funds for Municipal Construction Projects and the Advance of Municipal State Aid Funds for Federal Construction Projects at the same time. City Engineer Sarff reported any City over a population of 5,000 receives Municipal State Aid. The City of North Mankato has borrowed ahead and advanced those State Aid dollars for the completion of both municipal and federal projects. He stated this would be the last advance for the completion of the Lookout Drive project and the Roe

Crest Drive project. **Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland to adopt Res. No. 17-17 Requesting the Advance of Municipal State Aid Funds for Municipal Construction Projects. Vote on the motion: Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, Freyberg and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

**Res. No. 18-17 Requesting the Advance of Municipal State Aid Funds for Federal Construction Projects. Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner to Adopt Res. No. 18-17 Requesting the Advance of Municipal State Aid Funds for Federal Construction Projects. Vote on the motion: Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, Freyberg and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

**2016 Police Department Annual Report.** Police Chief Boyer presented the 2016 Police Department Annual Report. Chief Boyer stated the Police Reserve Unit worked over 1,000 hours mainly assisting with special events; they are called out for special crimes if police officers need to secure an area. He reported personal crimes remained steady, property crimes went down, while narcotic crimes remained flat. Chief Boyer stated the statistics for traffic road and driving complaints appear to have increased dramatically, but the increase is due to the new system which creates a report for every police contact or calls whether or not a citation or action is taken. He reported zero car fatalities in the City of North Mankato and only eight injuries that required the accident victims be transported for medical care. Chief Boyer indicated the increased calls for neighborhood support is again related to the new reporting system. Chief Boyer did indicate the number of medical calls had increased, but the police officers are well trained to assist with all of the officers being trained as first responders, EMTs or are paramedics. Mayor Dehen requested information on the number of deer and vehicle collisions in North Mankato as this has been a citizen concern. Chief Boyer reported three incidents occurred in 2016 with two on the Judson Bottom Road and the other on Lookout Drive. Administrator Harrenstein thanked Chief Boyer and all the police officers for their phenomenal work in maintaining a safe community. He indicated Chief Boyer was a responsive and active chief and worked with his officers to ensure the safety of the community. He thanked the Police Reserve for the time and effort they put into providing safety for the community events. City Administrator Harrenstein stated the City of North Mankato has been doing community policing since before it became popular. **Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland to approve the 2016 Police Department Annual Report. Vote on the motion: Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, Freyberg and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

#### **City Administrator and Staff Comments**

**None.**

#### **Mayor and Council Comments**

Mayor Dehen read the following proclamation into the record:

***WHEREAS**, March is St. Jude Month and a celebration of philanthropy where people give whatever they are able to give; and*

***WHEREAS**, March is St. Jude Month where citizens of North Mankato work together to share commitments, and rally in the fight to support the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital mission of finding cures, saving children; and*

***WHEREAS**, it is fitting and proper that March is St. Jude Month that will realize and recognize the tremendous impact of philanthropy, volunteerism and community service in the City of North Mankato; and*

*WHEREAS, March is St. Jude Month and creates an opportunity to encourage all citizens to serve others throughout this month and during other times during the year; and*

*WHEREAS, March is St. Jude Month and our regions understanding of the compassion of St. Jude Children's Research Hospitals commitment to families who will never receive a bill for their St. Jude treatment, travel, housing or food-because all a family should worry about is helping their child live; and*

*WHEREAS, March is St. Jude Month fundraises for the global resource known as St. Jude Children's Research Hospital that is completely focused on childhood cancer and other life-threatening diseases in children, including kids' right in our community.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Dehen, Mayor of the City of North Mankato, Minnesota, do hereby proclaim March 2017, to be*

*March is St. Jude Month*

*in the City of North Mankato, and encourage all North Mankato residents to join me in this special observance.*

Mayor Dehen reported Peter Pendergast earned the honor of Eagle Scout Rank.

Mayor Dehen stated Pedal Past Poverty would occur on Saturday, February 25, 2017, with the City staff providing riders for the event.

### **Public Comments**

Tom Hagen, 927 Lake Street, appeared before Council and requested the City pursue a Historic Preservation Commission. Mr. Hagen stated he attended an event hosted by Excel Energy concerning opportunities for sustainable energy. He encouraged the City to improve their sustainable energy practices. Mr. Hagen encouraged the City Council to pursue a deer hunt.

Administrator Harrenstein stated as the Belgrade Avenue Corridor Study, and the Downtown Master Plan draws to a close the City Council can determine if the two studies remain together or if they are separated. He stated it appears the Belgrade Avenue Corridor Study will undergo revisions and may take longer to complete, while the Downtown Master Plan has been in process for over a year and is close to completion. If the studies are divided, the City Council will need to decide how to manage the historic preservation information. Administrator Harrenstein stated it might be beneficial to refer the information to the Planning Commission but the City Council would need to decide how to proceed. Mayor Dehen indicated historic preservation would be a good topic to discuss at the City Council Strategic Planning meeting. Mayor Dehen stated City Electrician Tom Neubert has been working on improving the City of North Mankato's energy efficiency. Public Works Director Swanson indicated the City is working to transition to eco-friendly street lighting and are waiting on bids from three companies.

Barb Church, 102 Wheeler Avenue, appeared before Council and reported her concern about the noise from Mankato's River Front Park. She requested the City Council work with Mankato to reduce the noise.

Gary Zellmer, 1591 Sharon Drive, appeared before Council and expressed his desire to discuss library issues and the direction of the library and the resignation of former Library Director Lucy Lowry.

Brenda Peterson, 488 Marvin Boulevard, appeared before Council and requested clarification on Library Board issues.

There being no further business, on a motion by Council Member Norland, seconded by Council Member Whitlock, the meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

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Mayor

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City Clerk