

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 6, 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 Freyberg, Whitlock, and Norland, City Administrator Harrenstein, Finance Director McCann, City Attorney Kennedy, Community Development Director Fischer, Public Works Director Swanson and City Clerk Van Genderen. Absent: Council Member Steiner.

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Dehen removed for separate consideration Consent Agenda Item K, Consider Resolution Adopting the City Council Handbook. Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Whitlock, to approve the agenda with Agenda Item K removed for separate consideration. Vote on the motion: Freyberg, Whitlock, Norland 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 January 17, 2017. Vote on the motion: Freyberg, Whitlock, Norland and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Mayor Dehen thanked Amaya Thomas, representing Lasting Imprint, for attending and read the following proclamation into the record:

WHEREAS, the health and well-being of our children is of paramount importance; and

WHEREAS, each year in the United States, more than 40,000 babies are born with a congenital heart defect; and

WHEREAS, the medical community has identified congenital heart defects as the leading cause of birth defect-related deaths; and

WHEREAS, it is crucial that parents, pediatricians, and all those in the health profession have greater awareness of the potential for congenital heart defects among newborns and children; and

WHEREAS, Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week provides the opportunity for families and patients affected by these conditions to share their experiences and knowledge with the public, so that we all may be made more aware of how this defect affects all our lives.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Dehen, Mayor of the City of North Mankato, Minnesota, do hereby proclaim February 7-14, 2017, to be

Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week

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

Dated this 6th day of February 2017.

Consent Agenda

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

- A. Bills and Appropriations.
- B. Res. No. 11-17 Approving Donations/Contributions/Grants.
- C. Set Spring Clean-up for April 17-21 for the Valley and April 24-28 for the Hilltop.
- D. Set Water Main Flushing for April 24-28 for the Valley and April 24-May 12 for the Hilltop.
- E. Set Board of Appeal and Equalization for Thursday, April 6, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. in the Police Annex Community Room.
- F. Approved Large Group and Audio Permit for Holy Rosary Church Mass and Picnic at Wheeler Park on September 17, 2017, from 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with Audio from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- G. Approved Large Group and Audio Permit for Lasting Imprint's Community Day at Spring Lake Park on September 16, 2017, from 5:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with Audio from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- H. Approved Parade Permit for Lasting Imprint Our Community Has Heart 5k and 10K on September 16, 2017.
- I. Res. No. 12-17 Approving State of Minnesota Joint Powers Agreements with the City of North Mankato on Behalf of its City Attorney and Police Department.
- J. Approved the Purchase of a Jacobson AR722T4F Mower for the Parks Department.

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

Res. No. 13-17 Adopting the City Council Handbook. Mayor Dehen indicated public comments could be taken concerning the City Council Handbook. Kim Spears, 916 South Avenue, appeared before Council and reviewed his concerns about the City Council Handbook. He indicated Council Members should be able to offer dissent if they do not agree with the official position of the City Council. Mr. Spears stated he did not agree with the statement that all large requests for information should be directed to the City Administrator or the Mayor not directly to staff. Barb Church, 102 Wheeler Avenue, appeared before Council and stated she did not believe the document should have been added to the Consent Agenda and there were grammatical errors. Council Member Freyberg stated the City Council Handbook were guidelines for Council Members and it does not restrict the right of the individual to discuss alternative views. Mayor Dehen stated the City Council Handbook does not remove individual Council Member's rights to a dissenting view, but if the City asks a Council Member to act as an advocate, they should support the Council decision. **Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Whitlock to Adopt the City Council Handbook. Vote on the motion: Freyberg, Whitlock, Norland and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

Public Comments

Tom Hagen, 927 Lake Street, appeared before Council and thanked the staff and Council for a much quieter Anthony Ford Pond Hockey Tournament. He indicated his continued desire for the development of a Historical Preservation Commission. Mr. Hagen reported the Nicollet County Historical Society conducted a survey in 1982 that identified 43 potential sites for preservation.

Business Items

Consider Approving the Spring Lake Swim Facility Request for Proposal. Administrator Harrenstein stated the RFP would begin the process to replace the old filtration system at the Spring Lake Swim Facility. John Kind, Executive Director of the YMCA, appeared before Council and thanked the City for their responsiveness to the YMCA request to improve the facility. Administrator Harrenstein indicated the City would also consider additional play features during the RFP process. He reported the Mankato Foundation \$50,000 matching grant would be used to improve hockey at Spring Lake Park and the City was considering improving and expanding the current bathhouse facility to accommodate a warming house during the winter. **Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Whitlock to approve the Spring Lake Swim Facility Request for Proposal. Vote on the motion: Freyberg, Whitlock, Norland and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

Approve the Addition of One New Street Maintenance I Employee. Public Works Director Swanson reviewed the request for an additional Street Maintenance I Employee which included the reduction of staff by three employees since 2013 while there were increased special projects and staffing special events. He indicated the addition of a street serviceman would allow the delegation of duties increasing the time for addressing future capital improvement plans. Council Member Whitlock stated the department is stretched thin. **Council Member Freyberg moved, seconded by Council Member Norland to Approve the Addition of One New Street Maintenance I Employee. Vote on the motion: Freyberg, Whitlock, Norland and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

2016 Street Department Annual Report. Public Works Director Swanson reported the Street Department maintains approximately 77 miles of roadways and last year 9 miles were seal coated, .8 miles overlayed along with 5 miles of roads crack sealed. He stated the Street Department maintains and inspects 87 miles of storm sewer, several detention ponds, and 62 miles of sanitary sewer mains. He reviewed the increase in recycling collection due to the introduction of recycling single sort in 2015 which corresponds with a decrease in solid waste collection. Public Works Director Swanson reviewed special projects the Street Department completed in 2016 including; City Hall ramp removal and parking lot improvements, construction of displays at the Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota, wood-chips for the Humane Society, and work with the Miracle League of North Mankato in the design and execution of the soon to be constructed all-inclusive Fallenstein Playground at Caswell Park. He reported community events included softball and soccer tournaments at Caswell north and south and traffic control for all Business on Belgrade Events, Fun Days parade, and the North Star Bike Race. **Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Whitlock to approve the 2016 Street Department Annual Report. Vote on the motion: Freyberg, Whitlock, Norland and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

2016 Water and Sewer Department Annual Report. Administrator Harrenstein stated he would be reviewing the annual report, with Superintendent Rader available to answer any questions. Administrator Harrenstein stated the Water and Sewer Department was responsible for the distribution of water to the citizens of North Mankato, maintaining the stormwater system, and the sanitary system. The City maintains five City wells, six distributions pumps, twenty chemical pumps, two water towers, four ground storage reservoirs, two separate main lift stations that pump to Mankato's treatment plant, two Corp stations and they inspect storm lines. A few highlights from 2016 included the completion of Well #9, Rehab of the Main Lift Station #1, Rehab of Well #7, there were 12 City Main Breaks, and 1595 Gopher State One Calls. **Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member**

Whitlock to approve the 2016 Water and Sewer Department Annual Report. Vote on the motion: Freyberg, Whitlock, Norland and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.

2016 Parks Department Annual Report. Administrator Harrenstein stated he would be reviewing the annual report, with Superintendent Rader available to answer any questions. Administrator Harrenstein reported the City of North Mankato has 21 parks, 250 acres of park space, 43 acres of prairie, 10.6 miles of trails, 12 ball fields, 67 playground structures and 9.3 miles of sidewalks. City Administrator Harrenstein reported highlights for the Parks Department included the planting of 70 trees and the removal of 80 trees, resurfacing of tennis courts in Wheeler Park, seeding of prairie in Bluff Park and park improvements to Caswell to bring the park up to building code compliance. He reported there were over 15,663 swimmers in the Spring Lake Park Swim Facility.

Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Whitlock to approve the 2016 Parks Department Annual Report. Vote on the motion: Freyberg, Whitlock, Norland and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.

City Administrator and Staff Comments

Public Works Director Swanson stated crews were trimming Belgrade Avenue boulevard trees.

Mayor and Council Comments

Council Member Norland requested Administrator Harrenstein review where the City is at with historic preservation. Administrator Harrenstein indicated the Downtown Masterplan committee is reviewing options and will present recommendations in April.

Council Member Whitlock reported an increase in teams for the Anthony Ford Pond Hockey Tournament. He stated next year the committee was looking at dates that correspond with the Super Bowl.

Mayor Dehen reported 2018 would be the Anthony Ford Pond Hockey Tournament's ten year anniversary and they were looking at special events.

Mayor Dehen stated he received thank you notes from the Girl Scouts, School District 77 and the Echo Food Shelf for donations from the City's Charitable Gambling Fund.

Public Comments

Tom Hagen, 927 Lake Street, appeared before Council and requested the City consider a deer hunt. Mr. Hagen stated he believes the City has the worst boulevard trees and offered his advice on pruning trees.

Gary Zellmer, 1591 Sharon Drive, appeared before Council and indicated the Library Board would like to meet with City Council and the Administrator to discuss the resignation of the Library Director and the direction of the library.

There being no further business, on a motion by Council Member Norland, seconded by Council Member Whitlock, the meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk