

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 December 19, 2016. 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 Steiner, Norland, and Whitlock, City Administrator Harrenstein, Finance Director McCann, Attorney Kennedy, City Planner Fischer, Public Works Director Swanson and City Clerk Van Genderen. Absent: Council Member Freyberg.

Judge Bradley Walker administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Mark Dehen, Council Member James Whitlock, and Council Member Billy Steiner.

Approval of Agenda

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to approve the agenda as presented. Vote on the motion: Steiner, Norland, Whitlock 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 December 19, 2016. Vote on the motion: Steiner, Norland, and Dehen aye; Whitlock abstain. Motion carried.

Public Hearing – 7 p.m. Consider Proposed Improvements to the Sidewalk at 638 Belgrade Avenue. City Planner Fischer appeared before Council and stated that in response to a citizen complaint, City staff identified the sidewalk in front of 638 Belgrade Avenue to have a condition requiring maintenance or replacement and has been following the Sidewalk Installation and Maintenance Policy. City staff sent a certified letter to the property owner indicating that it was necessary to either repair or replace the sidewalk. The property owner was given sixty (60) days from the date of the letter to make the necessary improvements. The property owner did not respond within sixty (60) days. City staff followed the Sidewalk and Maintenance Policy that state if the improvements have not been made, the “City Council will hold a public hearing regarding the proposed improvement and take action on whether or not the City will complete the improvements and bill the costs of the improvement to the property owner.” With no one appearing before Council the Mayor closed the Public Hearing.

Public Hearing-7 p.m. Consider Proposed Improvements to the Sidewalk at 538 Page Avenue. City Planner Fischer indicated the same procedure had been followed as what was presented for the 638 Belgrade Avenue sidewalk. Barb Church, 102 Wheeler Avenue, appeared before Council and requested clarification on how the sidewalk would be fixed in winter. City Planner Fischer indicated the sidewalks would not be fixed until spring. With no one else appearing the Mayor closed the Public Hearing.

Public Hearing-7 p.m. Consider Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 5; a Request from the City of North Mankato. City Planner Fischer reported that City Council took action, in December 2016, amending the required lot size requirements in R1-S Zoning Districts. The City Code has been modified to reflect the new lot size requirements, and Comprehensive Plan amendments must be made. The Planning Commission recommends revision of the Future Land Use Map showing a new land use called “Low-Density Intermediate Residential.” The map is Exhibit A in the packet. On the map, this new area was guided for an undeveloped area of the City located north of Timm Road between Lor

Ray Drive and Lookout Drive. Future zoning of this area would be limited to R-1S designation. In addition to amending the Future Land Use Map, a new Low-Density Intermediate Residential district would need to be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan. With no one appearing before Council the Mayor closed the Public Hearing.

Consent Agenda

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

- A. Bills and Appropriations.
- B. Res. No. 1-17 Approving Donations/Contributions/Grants.
- C. Res. No. 2-17 Designating Official Newspaper.
- D. Res. No. 3-17 Designating Depositories for the City of North Mankato.
- E. Res. No. 4-17 Setting Mileage Rate for 2017.
- F. Set Public Hearing for 7 p.m. on January 17, 2017, to Consider a Petition for Utility Easement Vacation of Taylor Addition.
- G. Approved Taxi Cab Licenses for VINE Faith in Action.

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

Public Comments

Tom Hagen, 927 Lake Street, stated he believes the City should begin a Historic Preservation Commission and would like to be involved.

Barb Church, 102 Wheeler Avenue, thanked the Zero Waste organization for working with the City to begin organics recycling in North Mankato. Ms. Church thanked the Belgrade Methodist Church for opening their doors to women and children during the winter months. Ms. Church stated she would like brush pick-up reinstated.

Phil Henry, 1300 Noretta Drive, requested clarification on the Bergerson-Caswell, Inc. claim. Public Works Director Swanson stated it was for the rehabilitation of Well No. 6.

Business Items

Res. No. 5-17 Approving an Amendment to the Comprehensive Plan Figure 3-2: Future Land Use. Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council member Norland to adopt Res. No. 5-17 Approving an Amendment to the Comprehensive Plan Figure 3-2: Future Land Use.

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

Fire Department Annual Report. Fire Chief Rich Inman and Assistant Fire Chief Dan Giefer appeared before Council and answered questions concerning the 2016 Fire Department Annual Report which was included in the Council packet. Mayor Dehen asked how the new ladder truck and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA's) were working. Fire Chief Inman stated the new SCBA's were a welcome addition to the firemen's gear, helping the firefighters stay safe while fighting fires. He indicated the department has been working on ensuring the new ladder truck is properly working as it was a used unit. Fire Chief Inman reported Mankato had contacted North Mankato to be backup while their ladder truck was out of service. He indicated all used equipment was sold and the money reinvested in the fund. Chief Inman stated the Fire Department was able to recruit seven new

volunteer firefighters. The firefighters are still undergoing the extensive training required to serve on the department. Mayor Dehen thanked all of the volunteer firefighters for their service.

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation Presentation. Vice President of Development Jennifer Nelson presented the Council with information concerning the work of the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation. Ms. Nelson stated the foundation continues to grow and learn as it continues to invest in Southern Minnesota. The foundation has been active since 1986 and has leveraged local investments and partnerships supporting Nicollet County by investing \$2.5 million in Nicollet County through grants, loans, and programming for stronger kids, businesses, and communities. She reviewed specific support areas and indicated interest in working with the City of North Mankato.

Mankato/North Mankato Area Planning Organization Overview and Update. Executive Director Paul Vogel reviewed the development and organization structure of MAPO, indicating that the City of North Mankato was represented by Council Member Freyberg in the Policy Board and Community Development Director Michael Fischer on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Mr. Vogel reviewed MAPO funding indicating 82% of the budget is funded by the Federal Government with local members contributing \$31,530 in 2016. He reported 44% of the budget is used for staffing and 52% for consulting services and contracts for local studies. Transportation Planner Jake Huebsch reviewed current research and activities conducted by MAPO including intersection control evaluations at Lor Ray Drive and Howard Drive, the North Mankato Complete Streets Plan and the Belgrade Avenue Corridor Study. Mayor Dehen thanked MAPO for coordinating local projects to help the community thrive.

Belgrade Avenue Corridor Study Update. Transportation Planner Matt Lassonde reported work continues on both the Belgrade Avenue Master Plan and the Belgrade Avenue Corridor Study. The Belgrade Corridor Study will identify future transportation improvements to increase roadway function and safety for all modes of traffic on Belgrade Avenue. The Belgrade Master Plan is reviewing redevelopment efforts and beautification of Belgrade Avenue. Mr. Lassonde stated the committees would merge the public process at two open house meetings on January 26th and 28th presenting additional information to Council in March and making recommendations to Council in April. Transportation Planner Lassonde stated the committee continues to encourage comments through a web comment application available on the City Website. Transportation Planner Angie Bersaw said the Belgrade Avenue Corridor Study's goals include the balance of vehicle mobility and property access, safely accommodate all users, support pedestrian and bicycle use, support future land use and redevelopment, provide infrastructure improvements compatible with the environment, and enhance community character and the downtown environment. Ms. Bersaw presented several concepts including a round-a-bout at Lee Boulevard in response to delays getting onto Lee Boulevard from Belgrade Avenue, intersection bump-outs and traffic concepts for the 200 block including a 4-lane and 3-lane option. Administrator Harrenstein stated the ideas presented were preliminary concepts and the committee was excited to present the ideas to the public to gain input. Mayor Dehen said the City would ensure the web comment application is featured in the City E-newsletter.

City Administrator and Staff Comments

Public Works Director Swanson stated the compost site was open for Christmas tree disposal.

Mayor and Council Comments

Council Member Whitlock stated he was excited to represent the City of North Mankato and reported he had a specific interest in renewable energy, the complete streets plan, and workforce housing.

Mayor Dehen stated the next Coffee with the Council would be held at the Mankato Brewery 1119 Center Street, on Saturday, January 7th at 10 a.m.

Mayor Dehen reported that Nicollet County is offering free radon testing kits available at 622 Front Street in St. Peter.

Mayor Dehen offered his condolences to the Michele Goettl family. Michele passed away suddenly and will be missed by family and friends. She served for many years as a North Mankato Election Judge.

Public Comments

Tom Hagen, 927 Lake Street, appeared before Council and stated he would like the City to conduct a deer hunt. He said the Pond Hockey tournament audio amplification should be monitored.

Phil Henry, 1300 Noretta Drive, appeared before Council and agreed that the City should consider a deer hunt.

There being no further business, on a motion by Council Member Norland, seconded by Council Member Steiner, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk