

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 January 4, 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, Freyberg and Spears, City Administrator Harrenstein, Finance Director Thorne, City Planner Fischer, Public Works Director Swanson and City Clerk Van Genderen. Absent: Attorney Kennedy.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner to approve the minutes of the Council meeting of December 21, 2015. Vote on the motion: Steiner, Norland, Freyberg, Spears and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Public Hearing, 7 pm-Complete Streets Resolution.

With no one appearing Mayor Dehen closed this portion of the meeting.

Consent Agenda

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

- A. Bills and Appropriations.
- B. Res. No. 01-16 Approving Donations/Contributions/Grants.
- C. Approved Parade Permit for the Miracle League of North Mankato Gorilla 5K Fun Run, Caswell Park on April 30, 2016 from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- D. Approved Large Group and Audio Permit for the Miracle League of North Mankato Gorilla 5K Fun Run at Caswell Park on April 30, 2016 from 12:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- E. Approved Large Group and Audio Permit for MS Society Walk at Spring Lake Park on April 30, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. to 10 a.m.
- F. Approved Application for a 2 day Temporary On-Sale Liquor License for Business on Belgrade at Spring Lake Park on February 6 and 7, 2016 for the 8th Annual Anthony Ford Pond Hockey Classic.
- G. Res. No. 02-16 Setting Gas Mileage Reimbursement Rate for 2016.
- H. Res. No. 03-16 Designating Official Newspaper.
- I. Res. No. 04-16 Designating Depositories for the City of North Mankato.
- J. Res. No. 05-16 Setting Public Hearing on January 19, 2016 at 7 pm to Consider Mankato Clinic's Request to Amend Comprehensive Plan Figure 3-2: Future Land Use.
- K. Res. No. 06-16 Setting Public Hearing on January 19, 2016 at 7 pm to Consider Richard Lundin's Request to Amend Comprehensive Plan Figure 3-2: Future Land Use.

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

Public Comments

None

Business Items

Res. No. 07-16 Adopting Complete Streets Policy. Administrator Harrenstein stated two changes were made from the information presented at the December 21, 2015 Council Meeting. The word plan was struck from the Resolution because a plan is not being presented for adoption and a second paragraph has been added to the policy addressing concerns discussed at the previous Council Meeting. Council Member Spears stated he opposed the resolution as it adds expense to the construction and reconstruction of streets by becoming the default approach to street construction. Mayor Dehen stated he understood Council Member Spears concerns but indicated the policy would help direct future Councils to help maintain trails and sidewalks. Council Member Spears reported the process would still add engineering fees to the planning. Council Member Freyberg stated those concerns were addressed in the second paragraph of the policy where it states the Council has the ability to not comply with the streets policy. Mayor Dehen stated if the plan is adopted staff will be provided the opportunity to direct engineering on whether or not to comply with the Complete Streets Policy. Council Member Spears questioned the need for the policy when Staff can already direct engineering. Mayor Dehen stated the plan also allows the City to apply for Statewide Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) grant money. If the City has a Complete Streets Policy in place, SHIP money is more readily available with fewer steps for the grant application. Council Member Spears requested clarification on if the MAPO plan would cover this requirement. City Engineer Sarff reported the MAPO plan would not apply as a local plan is required to reduce the application procedure requirements if a plan is not in place. Council Member Spears expressed concern about using the policy on streets such as Roe Crest Drive and if trees would be sacrificed for bike trails or sidewalks. Council Member Norland reported citizens on Roe Crest Drive were interested in the possibility of improved pedestrian and bike access on Roe Crest Drive and SHIP's goal is to improve health through the expansion of exercise opportunities in cities. Administrator Harrenstein stated several options will be presented to citizens. Administrator Harrenstein indicated the policy would not change the Council's ability to determine how roads are reconstructed. City Engineer Sarff stated the policy mandates that we consider options not that we have to implement them. **Council Member Freyberg moved, seconded by Council Member Spears to adopt Res. No. 07-16 Adopting Complete Streets Policy. Vote on the motion: Steiner, Norland, Freyberg and Dehen aye; Spears nay. Motion carried.**

Res. No. 08-16 Authorizing Funding Application for the Commerce Drive Improvement Project. City Engineer Sarff stated federal funding is available through the Surface Transportation Program (STP) for the improvement of streets and bridges in cities in District 7 with population greater than 5,000. It is a competitive grant but there are only eight eligible cities in MnDOT District 7. If the project is selected it will be placed on the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and funded in Fiscal year 2020. Up to 80% of the eligible project costs will be reimbursed with federal funds. The remaining 20% along with the engineering costs would be paid for by the City. City Engineer Sarff reported that it was determined that funding applications for improvements to Commerce Drive between Lookout Drive and LorRay Drive would be submitted for funding under the current solicitation. The project would include a partial reconstruction of Commerce Drive between Lookout Drive and Lee Boulevard. The estimated total cost is \$1,984,200 with federal funding covering \$1,380,300 and the City covering \$603,900. Council Member Spears requested clarification on where Commerce Drive was located in the Pavement Management Plan. Public Works Director Swanson indicated the road was near the top as far as needing improvement. He stated with the available funding staff decided to apply for the grant and adjust the Pavement Management Plan as needed. **Council Member Freyberg moved, seconded by Council Member Norland to adopt Res.**

08-16 Authorizing Funding Application for the Commerce Drive Improvement Project. Vote on the motion: Steiner, Norland, Freyberg, Spears and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Receive Special Assessment Policy. Administrator Harrenstein informed the Council that the Special Assessment Policy being presented was a draft update of the City's Assessment Policy that was written in 1976. He reported that the draft policy included an assessment policy for mil and overlays. This policy was included to provide future Councils the means to assess mil and overlay work if it would become fiscally necessary. City Engineer Sarff presented a PowerPoint highlighting the information covered in the policy. He reported the methods of distributing assessments, payment options, what improvements are assessable in the wastewater system, water system, storm sewer, street and sidewalk and how they are assessed. In general, assessable projects are assessable up to 40% to the homeowner with 60% to the City. Administrator Harrenstein indicated that the 40% assessment is arrived at by past practice and the City Council has the ability to cap the assessment to reflect the actual benefit to the residents. City Engineer Sarff reported that the City Council placed an assessment cap on the Belgrade Avenue Hill project of \$7,000 plus driveway assessment. He stated the proposed cap for 2016 was \$8,000 including driveway assessment. Council Member Spears requested clarification on how the street overlay assessment policy would be included and still allow mil and overlay projects to be paid out of the General Fund. Administrator Harrenstein indicated he would work on the language. Council Member Spears requested clarification on how a sidewalk district would be implemented. City Engineer Sarff reported additional research would be conducted to explain how a district could be implemented if the Council desires. Administrator Harrenstein stated the Special Assessment Policy would be addressed after Council had time to review the proposed policy.

Res. No. 09-16 Regarding the 2016 Legislative Session. Administrator Harrenstein reported that since Resolution 07-15 Requesting Extension of Local Sales and Use Tax was passed last year, a lot of work by both North Mankato and Mankato has occurred with lobbying at the State Legislature. Last year also saw community discussion concerning a regional recreation center. A report from the steering committee should be presented to Council in February. Administrator Harrenstein stated that in consideration of the amount of money the City is seeking, the resolution presented seeks added direction to act in the best interest for the City of North Mankato. The resolution ensures an equitable playing field at the State Legislature. **Council Member Freyberg moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner to adopt Res. No. 9-16 Regarding the 2016 Legislative Session. Vote on the motion: Steiner, Norland, Freyberg, Spears and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

Res. No. 10-16 Creating the "Greater Mankato Cities Water Quality Coalition." Administrator Harrenstein reported the resolution included Madison Lake and Eagle Lake with four goals for the coalition. First, to advocate for Water Quality Initiatives & Projects in the Greater Mankato Area. Second, to increase transparency in budgeting, capital improvement planning, and billings for costs associated with the Mankato Wastewater Treatment Plan. Third, to ensure state bonding requests for water quality issues are adequately proportioned in their benefit to the region. Finally, to advocate for regional oversight and ownership of the Mankato Wastewater Treatment Plant. Administrator Harrenstein indicated the goal would be to work together to improve regional water quality and waste management. Mayor Dehen congratulated Administrator Harrenstein on taking steps to improve local partnerships. Council Member Norland questioned Mankato's response to the coalition. Administrator Harrenstein indicated Mankato looked forward to additional information and partnerships. **Council member Spears moved, seconded by Council Member Norland to adopt**

Res. No. 10-16 Creating the “Greater Mankato Cities Water Quality Coalition.” Vote on the motion: Steiner, Norland, Freyberg, Spears and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.

City Administrator and Staff Comments

Administrator Harrenstein wished the Council, Staff, and North Mankato Citizens a Happy New Year.

Mayor and Council Comments

Mayor Dehen reported Coffee with the Council will be held on January 9th at 10 a.m. at the Realtor’s Association of Southern Minnesota office located at 2115 Rolling Green Lane.

Public Comments

Matthias Leyrer, 526 Wall Street, appeared before Council and requested clarification on if the City of North Mankato informed residents that when streets are being rebuilt they can have work done on their lines. Public Works Director Swanson reported that the City informs residents that they can work on their lines at the same time as street reconstruction is occurring. Mr. Leyrer requested clarification on if residents who live on cul de sacs are assessed more because their roads serve no purpose other than to service the residents living on the cul de sac and the roads do not degrade as quickly because there is less traffic. Mr. Leyrer applauded the Council for adopting the Complete Streets Policy because it has the potential to slow traffic and save lives due to reduced speed.

There being no further business, on a motion by Council Member Steiner, seconded by Council Member Norland, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk