

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 4, 2013. 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 the meeting, Mayor Dehen, Council Members Freyberg, Spears, Steiner and Norland, Interim City Administrator Fischer, Finance Director Thorne, City Clerk Gehrke, Attorney Kennedy and Engineer Malm.

**Approval of Agenda**

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

**Approval of Minutes**

**Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2013 Council meeting. Vote on the motion: Spears, Steiner, Norland and Dehen aye; Freyberg abstained; no nays. Motion carried.**

**Correspondence**

**Letter from Department of Employment and Economic Development**

Mayor Dehen summarized a letter from the Department of Employment and Economic Development informing the City that based on staff review the Thin Film Technology project status was changed from “awarded” to “repayment.”

**Community Summit on Youth**

Mayor Dehen presented an invitation to the Council to attend the Community Summit on Youth to be held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Monday, February 11, 2013 at the Verizon Wireless Center.

**Open the Meeting to the Public for the First Time**

**Barbara Church, 102 E. Wheeler Avenue**

Barbara Church, 102 E. Wheeler Avenue, appeared before the Council and asked if funding has been located for the “Circle of Friends” sculpture for placement in front of the North Mankato Taylor Library.

Ms. Church also addressed the revised project for the Marigold site and asked the Council to be cautious about approving a project for this site prior to having a strategic plan in place.

**Bess Tsaouse, 136 Mary Circle**

Bess Tsaouse, 136 Mary Circle, appeared before the Council and addressed concerns regarding the application process for boards and commissions, term limits for boards and commissions, when the Park Board will be discussed and the difficulty she encounters while trying to navigate the City’s website.

**Gus Sandborg, 915 South Avenue**

Gus Sandborg, 915 South Avenue, appeared before the Council and expressed his concerns regarding possible Minnesota legislation to ban large-capacity magazines and assault weapons. He stated he would like to see a local response to this legislation. The Mayor requested he leave copies of the proposed legislation for the Council to review.

**Nicollet County Board Actions**

Mayor Dehen reported the Nicollet County/North Mankato Liaison Committee meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, February 11, 2013 in the Large Conference Room of the Municipal Building. One agenda item at this meeting is the Recycling Center. The Mayor also reported that Nicollet County Commissioner Dave Haack attended the January Library Board meeting.

**Consent Agenda**

**Council Member Freyberg moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes:**

- A. Application for Parade Permit for Lasting Imprint Our Community Has Heart Walk/Awareness Event, Spring Lake Park, from 9-10 a.m. on Saturday, May 18, 2013.
- B. Audio and Large Group Permit for Community Day, Spring Lake Park, from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 18, 2013.
- C. Audio and Large Group Permit for Blues on Belgrade, Belgrade Avenue, from noon to 11 p.m. on Saturday, July 27, 2013.

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

**Staff Reports****Interim City Administrator****Res. No. 15-13 Approving Updated Pay Equity Implementation Report**

Interim Administrator Fischer reported the State of Minnesota mandates a Pay Equity Implementation Report be submitted every three years. He reported the deadline for submission of the report was January 31<sup>st</sup> and the report was submitted as required. The necessary action for the Council is to adopt a resolution approving the report and authorizing the Mayor as signatory on behalf of the City. **Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to adopt Resolution No. 15-13 Approving Updated Pay Equity Implementation Report. Vote on the Resolution: Freyberg, Spears, Steiner, Norland and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

**2012 Building Permit Report**

Interim Administrator Fischer presented the 2012 Building Permit Report stating the total dollar value for building permits was \$27,508,814. Total number of permits was 1,574 which included 35 single-family homes, 4 townhomes, 2 apartment buildings (8 units), 10 garages, 53 industrial/commercial, 53 other and 1,420 residential remodeling.

**Schools and Conferences**

**Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to approve actual and necessary expenses for the following school and conference:**

1. Emotional Survival for Law Enforcement, Mankato, April 2, for one Patrol Officer.

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

**City Clerk****Results of 2013 Special Primary Election**

Clerk Gehrke reviewed the results of the 2013 Special Primary Election reporting a 4.00 percent voter turnout. She reported the Special General Election will be held on Tuesday, February 12, 2013. Absentee Ballots are now available and voters may also vote at the Nicollet County Courthouse on Saturday, February 9, 2013 between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Mayor Dehen reported a candidate forum will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 6, 2013 at the Nicollet County Historical Society's Treaty Site. The three candidates for House District 19A will be featured on KTOE "Talk of the Town" at 1 p.m. on Thursday, February 7, 2013 and Friday, February 8, 2013. The Mayor reported this is an important election because the candidate elected will be representing the City of North Mankato on issues such as Highway 14 and gun control.

**Finance Director****Community Room Usage Report**

Finance Director Thorne presented the Community Room Usage Report for 2012 reporting a total of 577 uses: 156 for the Municipal Building, 162 for the Police Annex and 259 for the Fire Station #2 Community Room. In response to a question, Finance Director Thorne reported since 2010 only one use per day was scheduled to allow for cleanup between uses.

**City Attorney**

Attorney Kennedy reported review of the ordinance pertaining to air soft guns was continuing with Chief Boyer. They have asked Mike Johnston, 418 Forest Height Drive, for his suggestions regarding appropriate definition for what is too dangerous for casual use. Mr. Johnston has not responded to this request. Attorney Kennedy reported they may be ready to set a public hearing on this matter at the second February Council meeting.

**City Engineer****Res. No. 16-13 Accepting Feasibility Report and Ordering Preparation of Plans and Specifications for Project No. 08-07B, Well No. 9**

Engineer Malm reported the original feasibility report for Well No. 9 was completed in 2007 estimating a cost of drilling the well at \$657,000 and a total cost including well, pump, watermain connections and building at a total cost of \$1.175 million. He reported the Capital Improvement Plan approved by the Council in December 2012 has a cost for Well No. 9 of \$1.35 million allowing for inflation over the past six years. The project will be phased over a two-year period drilling the well in 2013 with the building and watermain completed in 2014. Discussion was held regarding the feasibility of transferring water from the City of Mankato. The City Engineer reported because the water need is in the hilltop area and the limitation of transferring 1,000 gallons per minute from the lower system to the upper system, combined with the large cost of infrastructure changes that would be necessary to transfer water from the City of Mankato, this is not feasible. In answer to questions regarding water usage, the Engineer reported water usage tracks with the population and remains fairly stable at 70 to 100 gallons per person per day. Some discussion was held regarding implementing a lawn watering ban if the present drought conditions continue. **Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to adopt Resolution No. 16-13 Accepting Feasibility Report and Ordering Preparation of Plans and Specifications for Project No. 08-07B, Well No. 9. Vote on the Resolution: Freyberg, Spears, Steiner, Norland and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

## **Report from Council Members**

### **Council Member Steiner**

Council Member Steiner reported the North Mankato Civic & Commerce will be meeting on Wednesday, February 6, 2013 and will discuss funding of the "Circle of Friends" sculpture. Interim Administrator Fischer reported the request submitted to the Taylor Foundation for funding of the sculpture was denied.

### **Council Member Norland**

Council Member Norland reported discussion of the Parks Committee would take place as part of the strategic plan.

## **Report from Mayor**

Mayor Dehen reported the strategic planning process may not take place until the second half of the year in order to give the new City Administrator a chance to get acclimated.

The Mayor received a report from Lieutenant Bock regarding the noise level at Las Fronteras on Saturday nights. He reported that the bass has been adjusted to a level where it does not vibrate off the neighbors' windows. He believes this situation has been resolved to everyone's satisfaction.

The Mayor reported the Joint Economic Development discussion would be tabled until the May Intergovernmental meeting.

The Mayor reported no "Coffee with the Council" will be held in February but will be held in March.

The Mayor reported ten City of North Mankato Council/staff members are needed for the "Pedal Past Poverty" event to be held on Saturday, March 2, 2013. **Council Member Freyberg moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to authorize Partnership for Affordable Housing to be added to the 10% Charitable Gambling List and to approve a \$1,000 donation from the charitable gambling funds for the event "Pedal Past Poverty" which is sponsored by Partnership for Affordable Housing. Vote on the motion: Freyberg, Spears, Steiner, Norland and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

The Mayor reported Mankato/North Mankato Day at the Capitol will be held March 22-23, 2013. He reported that he will be unable to attend.

## **Open the Meeting to the Public for the Second Time**

### **Barbara Church, 102 E. Wheeler Avenue**

Barbara Church, 102 E. Wheeler Avenue, appeared before the Council and asked the Mayor to discuss the noise from Riverfront Park at the upcoming Intergovernmental meeting.

### **Phil Henry, 1300 Noretta Drive**

Phil Henry, 1300 Noretta Drive, appeared before the Council and stated that drought does not affect the deep ground aquifers and we need to be conscious of taking water out of the aquifer. He also spoke of the amount of water used for the irrigation of Caswell Park and the soccer fields and asked that water be metered for these uses to get a true cost.

**Bess Tsaouse, 136 Mary Circle**

Bess Tsaouse, 136 Mary Circle, appeared before the Council and spoke of the requirement that only turf grass be planted in the first 5' of the right-of-way. Ms. Tsaouse also spoke of involving citizens in the decision-making process and making the City's website easier to navigate.

**Bills and Appropriations**

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to approve all bills and appropriations in the amounts of \$7,834.77 and \$308,970.50. Vote on the motion: Freyberg, Spears, Steiner, Norland and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m. on a motion by Council Member Steiner, seconded by Council Member Norland. Vote on the motion: Freyberg, Spears, Steiner, Norland and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.

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Mayor

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City Clerk