

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 March 16, 2015. 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 Norland, Freyberg, Spears and Steiner, City Administrator Harrenstein, Finance Director Thorne, Attorney Kennedy, City Clerk Van Genderen, City Planner Fischer and Public Works Director Swanson.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Freyberg to approve the minutes of the Council meeting of March 2, 2015. Vote on the motion: Norland, Freyberg, Spears, Steiner and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

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

- A. Bills and Appropriations.
- B. Parade Permit for Bookin' on Belgrade Nearly 5K Family Fun Run, Saturday, June 6, 2015 from 9 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.
- C. Parade Permit for A.B.A.T.E. of Minnesota, Motorcycle Awareness, Saturday, May 2, 2015 from 1:15 p.m. to 1:40 p.m.
- D. Parade Permit for North Kato Explorers 4-H Club, 3K Fun Run, Sunday, May 3, 2015 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.
- E. Parade Permit for Final Stretch, Inc., North Mankato Triathlon, Sunday, August 9, 2015 from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- F. Set Public Hearing for 7 p.m. on Monday, April 6, 2015 to Consider Vacation of Utility Easements on Duehring Subdivision No. 2.
- G. Res. No. 23-15 Ordering Feasibility Report for Project No. 15-01ABCDEF Carlson Drive Extension.
- H. Res. No. 24-15 Approving Consent Assessment Agreement-226 Garfield Avenue.
- I. Res. No. 25-15 Preliminary and Final Plat of Duehring Subdivision No. 2.

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

Public Comments

Barb Church, 102 East Wheeler Avenue, appeared before the Council and indicated the Friends of North Mankato Group had been contacted regarding a substantial donation towards the purchase of the Tschohl property located at 1610 LorRay Drive. Church stated she has concerns with the proposed commercial parking, located at 231 and 233 Wheeler Avenue, in an area now zoned residential.

Brian Mechler, 303 Belgrade Avenue, appeared before the Council and requested assistance in retrieving his property left in his vehicle after Affordable Towing towed his vehicles.

John Hurd, 732 Garfield Avenue, appeared before the Council and indicated the Trust for Public Land was interested in working with the Friends of North Mankato Group regarding the Tschohl property.

Business Items

North Mankato Police Department 2014 Year End Report. Chief Boyer appeared before the Council and provided the 2014 Year End Report. Boyer stated the total number of reported incidents increased by 23 calls. Boyer indicated that the North Mankato Police were working in the schools as a way to add security and improve relations with the youth. He noted the Police Reserve were instrumental in helping throughout the year with parades, festivals and events. Boyer reported a new Patrol Officer would be joining the force soon. Administrator Harrenstein noted North Mankato was a safe City and he was pleased that the Police Chief's main statement to the Council was to keep your car locked. Harrenstein stated it was because of the hard work of the men and women who serve in the Police Department that North Mankato is safe. Council Member Norland thanked Chief Boyer for his involvement in the Tapestry Program.

Announcement of Book Title for 2015 Community Read. Library Director Lucy Lowry appeared before the Council and announced the 2015 Community Read as Wladyslaw Szpilman's memoir **The Pianist**. Lowry noted the book could be picked up at the North Mankato Taylor Library, Dino's Pizzeria, Mark's Barber Shop, South Central College Library, Frandsen Bank & Trust, Lor Ray Drive Salon & Spa, Y Barbers and the Garden of Eat'n. She also indicated several events would be occurring throughout the months of April and May.

Res. No. 26-15 Authorizing the Sale of Real Estate at 706 and 710 Range Street. City Planner Fischer stated the properties located at 706 and 710 Range Street were acquired using HUD funds and as part of the resale of the property it is required that the property is sold to a low income family. Fischer reported the properties at both 706 and 710 Range Street will be sold to Habitat for Humanity for \$15,000 per property. **Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to approve the Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Real Estate at 706 and 710 Range Street. Vote on the motion: Norland, Freyberg, Spears, Steiner and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

Consider Approving Request for Proposal for the Sale and Relocation of Properties Located at 231 and 233 Wheeler Avenue. City Planner Fischer indicated the City acquired both properties with the intent to use the space for parking. There are three Requests for Proposals for the sale and relocation of properties, one for the garage located at 233 Wheeler Avenue, one for the house at 233 Wheeler Avenue and one for the garage and house located at 231 Wheeler Avenue. **Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council member Steiner to approve the Request for Proposal for the Sale and Relocation of Properties Located at 231 and 233 Wheeler Avenue. Vote on the motion: Norland, Freyberg, Spears, Steiner and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

City Administrator and Staff Comments

Administrator Harrenstein stated in order to assist the public and in response to a member of the governing body he was providing a memo outlining the reverse referendum process.

Administrator Harrenstein indicated that because there is no request for rezoning the property located at 1610 LorRay Drive (Tschohl Property) it was a good time to work with the citizens who are interested in creating a park out of the Tschohl property and suggested convening two or three

meetings. **Council Member Spears moved, seconded by Council Member Freyberg to Organize Meetings with the Public Concerning the Tschohl Property. Vote on the motion: Norland, Freyberg, Spears, Steiner and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

Administrator Harrenstein reported that City Intern Matt Lassonde had accepted a position at Bolton & Menk and thanked him for his hard work.

Public Works Director Swanson reported that with the new waste collection contract Riverbend Recycling had experienced an increase of product and he would report the numbers to the Council next month. Swanson indicated Riverbend Recycling does recycle TVs but residents must pay by the pound.

Public Works Director Swanson stated the compost site was open.

Mayor and Council Comments

Council Member Spears directed staff to see if they could assist Brian Mechler in getting his property returned.

Mayor Dehen noted Mankato and North Mankato has one of the lowest unemployment rates in Minnesota and the region would be adding 1,000 jobs to the community. Dehen stated the community needs to pursue quality of life so people will choose to live in North Mankato.

Public Comments

Brian Mechler, 303 Belgrade Avenue, appeared before Council and expressed his concerns about the North Mankato Police Department.

There being no further business, on a motion by Council Member Norland, seconded by Council Member Freyberg, the meeting adjourned to closed session to discuss the Administrator's review at 7:50 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk