

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 November 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 Freyberg, Spears, and Steiner, City Administrator Harrenstein, Finance Director Thorne, Attorney Kennedy, City Clerk Van Genderen, Public Works Director Swanson. Absent: Council Member Norland.

**Approval of Agenda**

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

**Approval of Minutes**

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

**Public Hearing-7 p.m., Hearing on Proposed Assessment for Project No. 15-01ABCDEF West Carlson Drive Improvement Project 2015/2016.**

City Engineer Dan Sarff appeared before Council and stated the Public Hearing was for Project No. 15-01ABCDEF West Carlson Drive Improvement Project. The total cost of the project is \$698,260 with 100% being assessed to the improved properties. The Mayo Health Systems, as part of their annexation agreement, prepaid their assessment of \$349,974. H.H. Partnership's portion of the assessment of \$348,286 is deferred, as determined by a prior agreement, until the property is annexed into the City of North Mankato. As required by law a Public Hearing notice was published in the newspaper and notification was mailed to the property owners. With no-one appearing before Council Mayor Dehen closed this portion of the meeting.

**Consent Agenda**

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

- A. Bills and Appropriations.
- B. Res. No. 89-15 Approving Donations/Contributions/Grants.
- C. Approved Parade Permit for Gobble Wobble Family Fun Run, Benson Park, Thursday, November 26, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
- D. Set Public Hearing for 7 p.m. on Monday, December 7, 2015 to Consider 2016 Budget and Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan, 2016-2020.

**Vote on the motion: Freyberg, Spears, Steiner and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.** Council Member Spears requested clarification on the claim from Municipal Builders for work on Well House #9. Public Works Director Swanson stated the payment was for work to date which included utility and surface work. Mayor Dehen thanked Delta Kappa Gamma for their donation of \$1,750.00 to the Backpack for Books Program.

**Public Comments**

None.

**Business Items**

**Res. No. 90-15 Adopting Assessment for Project No. 15-01ABCDEF West Carlson Drive Improvement Project 2015-2016.** The Public Hearing for Project No. 15-01ABCDEF West Carlson Drive Assessment was held earlier in the evening. **Council Member Freyberg moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner to approve Res. No. 90-15 Adopting Assessment for Project No. 15-01ABCDEF West Carlson Drive Improvement Project 2015-2016. Vote on the motion: Freyberg, Spears, Steiner and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

**Res. No. 91-15 Creating the Greenway Conservation Advisory Committee.**

Administrator Harrenstein reported City staff is excited to welcome this new group to act as consultants. He stated the Parks Plan identifies urban forest and greenway as areas for conservation and maintenance and the Greenway Conservation Advisory Committee would act as advisors for prairie restoration, eradication of invasive species and vetting ideas such as developing monarch and animal habitats and growing fruit in public spaces. The committee consists of a Council Member, a Citizen and a Conservation Professional. Council Member Freyberg, who is passionate about conservation, has agreed to serve along with Conservation Professional Randy Schindle and citizen Scott Seigfreid. Council Member Spears requested Attorney Kennedy address any statutory implications. Attorney Kennedy reported the advising Council can establish and abolish committees. Attorney Kennedy stated the City Council maintains control over appointments and advised Council to review committee activity and determine if any committees should be abolished. **Council Member Spears moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner to amend the resolution to include a review by City Council after ten (10) years of the efficacy and necessity of the Greenway Conservation Advisory Committee. Vote on the motion: Freyberg, Spears, Steiner and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried. Council Member Spears moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner to approve the amended Res. No. 91-15 Creating the Greenway Conservation Advisory Committee. Vote on the motion: Freyberg, Spears, Steiner and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

**City Administrator and Staff Comments****Budget Review and Update.**

Finance Director Thorne reviewed changes to the 2016 Budget. The changes included an increase of \$882,943 in the 2016 Final Expenditures from the 2016 Proposed Expenditures, and an increase by \$111,346 for debt in the Water Fund, Sewer Fund, Storm Water Fund and Debt Service Funds. This increase is due to an earlier payment date on several GO Improvement Bonds due to the 2015B Refunding Bonds. The City will see savings from the 2015B Refunding Bonds in lower debt service over the 2015-2028 period. The Construction Fund has an increase of \$771,054 due to the use of excess fund balance from 2015 projects. This amount is proposed to be used in 2016 for 2016 Construction projects (\$671,054) and a transfer to Debt Service Funds (\$100,000). Administrator Harrenstein indicated updated worksheets would be provided.

**Charitable Gambling Information.**

Administrator Harrenstein stated a memo was included in the packet that reviewed background information on charitable gambling, local regulations and the Charitable Gaming Fund. Administrator Harrenstein reported that in the future the Charitable Gaming Fund would be included in the Budget. Administrator Harrenstein indicated the City would also be donating time to the Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota to help construct a painting wall. Mayor Dehen stated Council should review the Charitable Gaming Fund and proposed expenditures and discuss the Charitable Gaming Fund during the 2016 Budget review.

**Strategic Plan Update.**

Administrator Harrenstein indicated he would provide an update at a later date.

Public Works Director Swanson reported leaf collection continues. Mayor Dehen thanked Public Works Director Swanson for having staff out collecting leaves on Veteran’s Day, a day staff normally has off, to collect the leaves prior to the wind.

Council Members Freyberg and Steiner thanked Public Works Director Swanson for directing traffic during the Lookout Drive Reconstruction and Roundabouts.

**Mayor and Council Comments**

Mayor Dehen introduced Sarah Wennes who spoke on behalf of Monroe Elementary. Ms. Wennes appeared before Council and reported Monroe Elementary received the honor of being awarded a Blue Ribbon Award from U.S. Secretary of Education.

Mayor Dehen read into record a proclamation declaring November 2015 Monroe Elementary Month.

***P R O C L A M A T I O N***

*WHEREAS, Monroe Elementary was built in 1959 and today provides education in North Mankato for approximately 480 students in kindergarten through fifth grade; and*

*WHEREAS, Monroe Elementary strives to assure learning excellence and readiness for a changing world through positive behavior strategies, collaboration between students, parents and teachers and high expectations of behavior and learning to promote success and create lifelong learners; and*

*WHEREAS, the U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, is recognizing Monroe Elementary as a National Blue Ribbon School; and*

*WHEREAS, the National Blue Ribbon designation recognizes that Monroe Elementary is an exemplary high performing school and is one of Minnesota’s highest performing schools as measured by state assessments;*

*NOW THEREFORE I, Mark Dehen, Mayor of North Mankato, proclaim November 2015 as:*

***MONROE ELEMENTARY MONTH***

*in the City of North Mankato and encourage all citizens to thank teachers and staff for their hard work and dedication in making Monroe Elementary a National Blue Ribbon School.*

*Dated this 16<sup>th</sup> day of November 2015.*

Mayor Dehen reported a successful Coffee with the Council at The Washboard Laundry on Saturday, November 14, 2015.

Mayor Dehen read into record a joint proclamation from the City of Mankato and the City of North Mankato declaring November 13, 2015 Holiday Sharing Tree Day.

*WHEREAS, the City of Mankato and the City of North Mankato have many individuals in need who may not receive a gift at Christmas including those with limited financial resources, developmental and physical disabilities, the elderly, and those with other disadvantages; and*

*WHEREAS, the Holiday Sharing Tree began filling needs in 1985 by providing 185 families with gifts and last year in 2014 provided gifts to over 800 families; and*

*WHEREAS, since 1985 the Holiday Sharing Tree has provided over 55,000 gifts to those in need in Blue Earth and Nicollet counties; and*

*WHEREAS, the Holiday Sharing Tree is celebrating 30 years of service and giving to those in need;*

*NOW THEREFORE DO WE, Eric Anderson, Mayor of Mankato, and Mark Dehen, Mayor of North Mankato, proclaim November 13, 2015 as:*

**HOLIDAY SHARING TREE DAY**

*in the City of North Mankato and Mankato, and encourage all citizens to work together to promote and give to the Holiday Sharing Tree.*

*Dated this 13<sup>th</sup> day of November 2015.*

**Public Comments**

Barb Church, 102 Wheeler Avenue, appeared before Council requesting clarification on if the Parks and Green Spaces Committee was still an active committee since the Greenway Conservation Advisory Committee was formed. Mayor Dehen indicated the Greenway Conservation Committee was an additional source of information and expertise.

Jim Whitlock, 332 Belgrade Avenue, appeared before Council and stated the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bells on Belgrade would be held on December 5<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm and would include a Winter Wonderland Parade at 6:30 pm.

There being no further business, on a motion by Council Member Freyberg, seconded by Council Member Steiner, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk