

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 April 18, 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 Spears, Norland and Freyberg, City Administrator Harrenstein, Attorney Kennedy, City Planner Fischer, Public Works Director Swanson and City Clerk Van Genderen. Absent: Council Member Steiner

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Spears to approve the minutes of the Council meeting of April 4, 2016. Vote on the motion: Spears, Norland and Dehen aye; Freyberg abstain. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

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

- A. Bills and Appropriations.
- B. Res. No. 39-16 Approving Donations/Contributions/Grants.
- C. Approved Large Group and Audio Permit for Label Works Company Picnic at Wheeler Park on August 20, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- D. Approved Parade Permit for the North Mankato Civic & Commerce Association Fun Days Parade on July 9, 2016 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- E. Approved Parade Permit for the North Mankato Civic & Commerce Association Fun Days Kiddie Parade on July 8, 2016 from 6:15 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- F. Res. No. 41-16 Waiving Waiting Period for Exemption from Lawful Gambling License for Knights of Columbus to Conduct Bingo on July 6-10, 2016 at Wheeler Park.
- G. Approved Application for Temporary 3.2 Permit for North Mankato Civic & Commerce Association, Fun Days, July 7-10, 2016, Wheeler Park.
- H. Approved Large Group and Audio Permit for Belgrade United Methodist Church Picnic at Spring Lake Park on May 22, 2016 from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- I. Approved Large Group and Audio Permit for MS Society Walk at Spring Lake Park on April 30, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. with Audio from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- J. Authorized City Administrator to Execute an Operating Service Agreement for the All Seasons Arena.

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

Council Member Spears requested clarification on the Service Agreement with All Seasons Arena and if the City supported the organization in any other ways. Administrator Harrenstein stated the City had a debt service obligation that expires in 2021. Mayor Dehen thanked the anonymous donor to the North Mankato Taylor Library.

Public Comments

Katy Wortel, 1411 Pohl Road, Mankato, appeared before Council and spoke on behalf of Mankato Zero Waste. She stated Mankato Zero Waste has 79 subscribers and 20 of those are North Mankato residents. Ms. Wortel stated she was pleased the City was considering adopting a resolution

authorizing participation in a joint grant application being submitted to the MPCA. Council Member Spears stated the entire grant application was not included in the packet and he would want to see the entire application prior to agreeing to the grant. He stated he was concerned about penalties for non-compliance. Betty Winkworth, 970 Baker Avenue, Mankato, stated what was included in the packet was the portion that pertained specifically to North Mankato and indicated she was unaware of any penalties for non-compliance. The only action that may occur is the City may need to cover in-kind costs if the City does not comply. Public Works Director Swanson reported the majority of in-kind cost would be his time. Administrator Harrenstein indicated the resolution before Council approved the application, if the application was approved by the MPCA the complete grant could be brought before Council before signing.

Barb Church, 102 Wheeler Avenue, appeared before Council and stated she believed the Brewing Ideas event should not have been held on two Tuesdays. Ms. Church indicated noise control should be considered for all parks and events.

Business Items

Res. No. 40-16 Adopting Minnesota Pollution Control Agency FY 2016-17 Grant Program Authorization. Council Member Spears moved, seconded by Council Member Norland to Adopt Res. No. 40-16 Adopting Minnesota Pollution Control Agency FY 2016-17 Grant Program Authorization. Vote on the motion: Spears, Norland, Freyberg and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Receive Update on Planned Capital Outlay Expenditures for Parks. City Administrator Harrenstein stated the allocations stemmed from the Master Plan for the Park's System. The \$200,000 allocated to the parks is a commitment to the City's outstanding park system. The money would be allocated for tennis court resurfacing, playground structure upgrades, shelter repairs, Benson Park Bridge, Bluff Park Overlook and Spring Lake Hockey Upgrades. Additional funding was being procured for work at Bluff Park and Benson Park.

Consider Adopting Bluff Park Master Plan as an Amendment to the North Mankato Parks Master Plan.

Administrator Harrenstein reported the Greenway Committee has been actively examining existing assets and looking at how to leverage those assets. City Engineer Sarff reported the Greenway Committee has been working with an engineer to create a plan for Bluff Park. The plan includes a pavilion overlooking the river valley, construction of wood chip paths to complement existing paved trails and improve access to the unique groves of Black Maple, Red Oak and Aspen, the creation of an ornamental tree/orchard arboretum and a small grove of white pines, development of native prairie areas, enhanced seating and interpretive signage and re-establish the trail from the north end of Mary Lane to Lake Street. **Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Freyberg to Adopt Bluff Park Master plan as an Amendment to the North Mankato Parks Master Plan. Vote on the motion: Spears, Norland, Freyberg and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

Review Proposed Modifications and Schedule to the Municipal Building Entrance and Parking Lot.

City Engineer Sarff stated the discussion concerning ramp modifications began on April 4, 2016 when the City Council adopted the 2016-2017 HUD Annual Action Plan in which approximately \$140,000 of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) federal funds were proposed to be used for modifications to the City of North Mankato Municipal Building entrance and parking lot. The

funds would be used to remove and replace the degrading and hazardous ramp, upgrade the parking lot and landscape. Engineer Sarff estimated the cost of the project at \$350,000 to \$400,000. The final project details would be presented at the May 16, 2016 Council Meeting with the contract awarded on June 20, 2016 and work to begin in July. Administrator Harrenstein reported this is outside the planned budget but the ramp has become dangerous and rehabilitation is not a feasible option. The ramp needs to be replaced before winter as it has become a liability. Administrator Harrenstein reported the budget would need to be trimmed in other areas and once the audit is completed funds may be available from remaining funds. Council Member Spears stated he did not like using the HUD funds as they require prevailing wage requirements be met and that may exclude the use of City staff.

Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Freyberg to proceed with Proposed Modifications to the Municipal Building Entrance and Parking Lot. Vote on the motion: Norland, Freyberg and Dehen aye; Spears nay. Motion carried.

City Administrator and Staff Comments

Receive Update on Green Space Policy. Administrator Harrenstein provided a review of the Greenway Conservation Management Policy. The policy outlines maintenance of ditches, outlots, storm water holding ponds, wetlands, bays, lakes, ponds, prairies, ravines, scenic overlooks and addresses the emerald ash bore threat and other species as need be. Council Member Spears requested clarification on the recommended mowing height of three inches. Public Works Director Swanson reported this has been standard practice. Administrator Harrenstein thanked Randy Schindle and Scott Siegfried for their work on the committee. Council Member Norland requested information on the use of chemicals. Public Works Director Swanson indicated the City only sprays following an assessment of the situation and staff uses the necessary safety protocol.

City Engineer Sarff reported the City's application for the Dakota Meadows Safe Routes to School Transportation Alternative Program (TAPs) for \$342,000 was approved. Funding would be available in 2019.

Mayor and Council Comments

Mayor Dehen reported the Bicycle Commission meeting would be held at the North Mankato Police Annex on Wednesday, April 27th at 7 p.m. The Commission would be discussing the Bike Grand Prix.

Mayor Dehen stated Coffee with the Council would be held on May 7, 2016 at 10 a.m. It would be a ribbon cutting for the Highway 14 Trail. Culvers agreed to provide free ice cream to anyone who rode or walked the path.

Mayor Dehen indicated an artist Meet and Greet was planned for the City Art Walking Sculpture Tour on May 14, 2016 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Public Comments

Phil Henry, 1300 Noretta Drive, appeared before Council and stated he thought restrooms should be installed at Benson Park before the construction of a bridge. He reported signage pertaining to trees and native species would be a great addition to Bluff Park. Mr. Henry indicated he believed the City should try and save the ramp. Administrator Harrenstein reported City staff were in agreement with the need for restrooms at Benson Park and temporary ones were being installed for the summer. He indicated work was proceeding towards permanent restrooms.

There being no further business, on a motion by Council Member Norland, seconded by Council Member Spears, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk