Pursuant to the due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the North Mankato City Council was held in the Municipal Building Council Chambers on November 20, 2023. Mayor Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m., asking everyone to join the Pledge of Allegiance. The following were present for roll call: Council Members Steiner, Oachs, Peterson, City Administrator McCann, Finance Director Ryan, Community Development Director Fischer, and Administrative Services Manager-City Clerk Van Genderen. Absent: Council Member Whitlock.

Approval of Agenda

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Oachs, to approve the agenda as presented. Vote on the motion Peterson, Oachs, Steiner, and Carlson, aye, no nays. Motion carried.

Approval of Council Minutes from November 6, 2023, Council Meeting.

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Oachs, to approve the November 6, 2023, Council Meeting Minutes. Vote on the motion Peterson, Oachs, Steiner, and Carlson, aye, no nays. Motion carried.

Approval of Council Work Session Minutes from November 6, 2023, Council Work Session.

Council Member Oachs moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to approve the November 6, 2023, Council Work Session Minutes. Vote on the motion Peterson, Oachs, Steiner, and Carlson, aye, no nays. Motion carried.

Public Hearing, 7 pm to Consider Amending City Code Chapter 130 General Offenses to Include Chapter 130.12 Possession of Edged Weapons on Public Property.

Police Chief Gullickson stated the ordinance would prohibit the carrying of machetes, hatchets, or other large, edged weapons on public property as it can be concerning when someone is carrying something that could be perceived as a weapon. It would not prevent the use of the tools on private property. He questioned whether the Council would have an issue with the blade length as the length in the ordinance is 4 inches, and it is not uncommon for a filet or a deer hunting knife to have a 6-inch blade.

With no one else appearing, the Mayor closed the Public Hearing.

Public Hearing, 7 pm to Provide Public Comments Concerning Body Worn Camera Policy.

Police Chief Gullickson stated the Police Department would be purchasing Body Cameras and implementing their use in early 2024. State Statute requires the department to obtain public comment before implementing the cameras. He stated the City accepted public comment online, and this was an additional opportunity for the public to comment. He stated eight people provided comments online, and all agreed with the use of body-worn cameras.

City Administrator McCann stated the policy is an internal policy, and this is just an opportunity for public comment; the Council will not be required to approve the policy.

Public Comments
None.

Consent Agenda

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Peterson, to approve the Consent Agenda.

A. Bills and Appropriations.
B. Res. No. 74-23 Accepting Donations/Contributions/Grants.
C. Approved On-Sale Intoxicating, Sunday, Soft Drink, and Mechanical Amusement Device Licenses for December 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023, for Big Dog Sports Bar, LLL, d/b/a Big Dog at 1712 Commerce Drive.
D. Approved Cigarette and Soft Drink Licenses for December 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023, for 1711 Lor Ray LLC, d/b/a Andy's Mini Mart at 1711 Lor Ray Drive.
E. Res. No. 75-23 Designating the Polling Places for 2024.
F. Approved State of Minnesota Voting Operations, Technology & Election Resources (Voter) Account County-Municipality Agreement.
G. Approved a Mobile Food Truck License for Abu Bilal Food Truck, Mankato, MN, for 12/1/2023-12/1/2024.
H. Authorized the City Administrator to Enter into a Partnership with Enterprise Fleet Management.
I. Approved the Execution of the Labor Agreement Between the City of North Mankato and North Mankato Administrative Support Coordinator Local #465 from January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2025.
J. Res. No. 76-23 Declaring Costs to be assessed for Municipal Charges.

Vote on the motion Peterson, Steiner, and Carlson, aye, Oachs abstain, no nays. Motion carried.

Business Items

Ordinance No. 163 Amending the North Mankato City Code Amending City Code Chapter 130 General Offenses to Include Chapter 130.12 Possession of Edged Weapons on Public Property.

Council confirmed with Police Chief Gullickson that he was okay with the length of the blade in the Ordinance and noted the police department has some leniency when managing complaints.

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Oachs, to Adopt Ordinance No. 163 Amending the North Mankato City Code Amending City Code Chapter 130 General Offenses to Include Chapter 130.12 Possession of Edged Weapons on Public Property. Vote on the motion Peterson, Oachs, Steiner, and Carlson, aye, no nays. Motion carried.

Set a Public Hearing for 7 pm, December 4, 2023, to Consider an Ordinance Amending City Code Chapter 130.02 Definitions and Including Chapter 130.12.

Attorney Kennedy reported that the language included in the ordinance was based on Council direction. It included providing businesses who want to prohibit smoking on their property the ability to extend it to 25 feet in front of the business. It also prohibits smoking on public property on which smoking is banned. Council Member Oachs asked about someone who is smoking and walking past a premise that bans smoking. Attorney Kennedy noted if there was a complaint, the police officers would have discretion during the incident.

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Peterson, to Set a Public Hearing for 7 pm, December 4, 2023, to Consider an Ordinance Amending City Code Chapter 130.02 Definitions and Including Chapter 130.12. Vote on the motion Peterson, Oachs, Steiner, and Carlson, aye, no nays. Motion carried.

Res. No. 77-23 Approving City Support to Fund Engineering, Right-of-Way, Inspection, and other non-LRIP Eligible costs, as well as LRIP Eligible Items in Excess of the LRIP Grant Amount for Improvements to Sections of Lee Boulevard and Belgrade Avenue.

City Engineer Sarff stated the Local Roads Improvement Program has approximately $85 million in state-bonded funds. The funds can be used for constructing or reconstructing city streets, county highways, or town roads with statewide or regional significance. It is a competitive grant process, and the maximum amount of each grant is $1,500,000. In 2022, the City was awarded approximately $872,000 in federal funding through the STP Small Urban funding program for the proposed improvements on Belgrade Avenue from Range Street to Nicollet Avenue. The project is scheduled for construction in 2026 to coincide with MnDOT's TH 169/Belgrade Avenue interchange project and Veterans Memorial Bridge project. The portion of the Belgrade Avenue project not covered by federal funding is approximately $631,000; of that amount, approximately $218,000 would be eligible for LRIP funding. Additional costs associated with the project would be LRIP funding of approximately $87,000. City staff is also recommending that improvement on Belgrade Avenue west of Range Street and on Lee Boulevard also be included in the LRIP funding application. The improvements would include a mill and overlay on Belgrade Avenue from Lee Boulevard to Range Street and on Lee Boulevard from Lookout Drive to Belgrade Avenue. The total estimated cost of these improvements is approximately $1.2 million, of which an estimated $1.0 million would be eligible for LRIP funding. The resolution that is included would authorize the application for LRIP funding and confirm the City's responsibility for associated costs.

Council Member Oachs requested clarification on whether pedestrian lights were still being considered at Range Street and Belgrade. City Engineer Sarff confirmed they could still be considered.

Mayor Carlson asked if a pedestrian light would be considered at the intersection of Lee Boulevard and Belgrade Avenue to assist with crossing. City Engineer Sarff reported that the Lookout Drive Corridor Study provided options for the hill that have yet to be implemented.

Discussion was held concerning an aging stop light and repurposing it as a pedestrian light. City Engineer Sarff stated the cost of changing the stop light to a pedestrian light may be cost-prohibitive.

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Oachs, to adopt Res. No. 77-23 Approving City Support to Fund Engineering, Right-of-Way, Inspection, and other non-LRIP Eligible costs, as well as LRIP Eligible Items in Excess of the LRIP Grant Amount for Improvements to Sections of Lee Boulevard and Belgrade Avenue. Vote on the motion Peterson, Oachs, Steiner, and Carlson, aye, no nays. Motion carried.

Res. No. 78-23 to Support a Minnesota River-Mankato Watershed One Watershed, One Plan Project.

City Administrator McCann reported the City would be working on a watershed plan with Nicollet County, Blue Earth County, Lake Crystal, and Mankato. Throughout the State, there are 60 watershed plans that are being created. The watersheds will allow the opportunity to obtain grants and other forms of funding to protect Minnesota's waters.

Council Member Oachs moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to adopt Res. No. 78-23 to Support a Minnesota River-Mankato Watershed One Watershed, One Plan Project. Vote on the motion Peterson, Oachs, Steiner, and Carlson, aye, no nays. Motion carried.

Open Forum
None.

City Administrator and Staff Comments

City Administrator McCann reported that the packet includes information concerning a change to the Mankato Transit Bus System Change of Service Plan and Public Engagement. He noted there is a request to provide Saturday Service. The overall impact on the budget would be approximately $1,400 a year. Before any changes would occur, the City would need to hold public engagement to allow public comments. Staff is requesting direction on if the Council would like to hold the public engagement. The council agreed that they were interested and directed staff to move forward with public comment.

City Administrator McCann reported that the Taylor Library and City Hall will be closed on November 23rd and November 24th for Thanksgiving. Garbage and Recycling will be pushed back one day for anyone whose garbage is on November 23rd or later in the week.

City Administrator McCann reported there will be a Cyber Monday sale on swim passes.

City Administrator McCann invited everyone to participate in the Hometown Holiday Lights show.

City Administrator McCann invited everyone out to Bells on Belgrade on December 2, 2023.

Administrative Services Manager Van Genderen reminded the Council that the Truth in Taxation Public Hearing will be held on December 6, 2023, at 7 pm.

Mayor and Council Comments

Council Member Oachs stated that while at Coffee with the Council, she was asked why there are no recycling bins in the parks.

Mayor Carlson thanked everyone who came out to Coffee with the Council.

At 8:20 p.m., on a motion by Council Member Steiner, seconded by Council Member Oachs, the Council Meeting was adjourned.

_____
Mayor

_____
City Clerk