

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 6, 2023. Mayor Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m., asking everyone to join the Pledge of Allegiance. The following were present for roll call: Council Members Steiner, Oachs, Peterson, Whitlock, City Administrator McCann, Finance Director Ryan, Community Development Director Fischer, Public Works Director Arnold, and Administrative Services Manager-City Clerk Van Genderen.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Council Minutes from October 16, 2023, Council Meeting.

Council Member Oachs moved, seconded by Council Member Whitlock, to approve the October 16, 2023, Council Meeting Minutes. Vote on the motion Steiner, Oachs, Whitlock, and Carlson, aye, Peterson Abstain, no nays. Motion carried.

Approval of Council Work Session Minutes from October 16, 2023, Council Work Session.

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Whitlock, to approve the October 16, 2023, Council Work Session Minutes. Vote on the motion Steiner, Oachs, Whitlock, and Carlson, aye, Peterson Abstain, no nays. Motion carried.

Public Hearing, 7 pm to Consider Project No. 23-07 ABCDEF Sherman Street Improvement Project.

City Engineer Sarff reviewed the Preliminary Engineering Report. The project area is from Sherman Street from South Avenue to Monroe Avenue. The project is in the City's Capital Improvement Plan for 2024. City Engineer Sarff reviewed the existing conditions and the planned improvements. The Sanitary Sewer existing conditions include over 70-year-old sanitary sewer for most of the street, with a few areas having newer systems from the mid-1980s to the early 1990s. Improvements include the replacement of the 70-year-old sanitary sewer with new materials and replacing existing services from the sewer main to the right of way. Property owners will be responsible for any replacement from the right of way to their house if it is deficient.

The existing watermain conditions include some cast iron watermains over 70 years old. Several existing water mains in east-west streets crossing Sherman Street were installed in the late 1980s and early 1990s with ductile irons. The proposed plan is to replace the watermain pipe with plastic. New auto-reading water meters will also be installed as part of the project.

The existing Storm Sewer pipe ranges from 12" to 24" in diameter, with numerous maintenance holes and catch basins. Due to the lack of inlet and pipe capacity, some areas have isolated ponding. The proposed improvements include new inlets and maintenance holes at all intersections and mid-block locations. New storm sewer pipes with a 12" to 24" diameter and the system will be designed to accommodate 10-year design runoff.

Street and surface existing conditions include street widths from South Avenue to Belgrade Avenue at 44' wide, Belgrade Avenue to Garfield Avenue at 40' wide, and Garfield Avenue to Monroe Avenue at 35.7' wide. It is bituminous with a curb and gutter on both sides. The pavement and curbs are in fair to poor condition. South Avenue to Belgrade Avenue is one-way to the south with a dedicated bike lane. Proposed improvements include reconstruction of the existing street with new bituminous pavement and curb and gutter with South Avenue to Belgrade Avenue at 44' wide,

Belgrade Avenue to Garfield Avenue at 40' wide, and Garfield Avenue to Monroe Avenue at 34' wide. The width change accommodates a wider sidewalk and maintains a reasonable boulevard width.

City Engineer Sarff reviewed the existing sidewalk and boulevard widths throughout the street. He noted the Garfield Avenue to Monroe Avenue sidewalk on both sides is not ADA compliant, and the sidewalk will be increased to 5' wide.

There are 29 existing trees within the right of way on Sherman Street. Many of the trees are very large, and in some cases, the base of the trunks fills the entire boulevard. Removing trees in boulevards that are less than 6.5 feet is recommended, along with removing all ash trees. He noted all residents would be offered the opportunity to replace their boulevard trees if their boulevard is wider than 6.5 feet; if their boulevards are too narrow, they will be offered a tree for their yard.

City Engineer Sarff reported the estimated total cost for the project is \$4,240,600, with \$1,070,600 from Municipal State Aid Advance and the remaining \$3,170,000 from City/Special Assessment Cost. He reviewed the assessment process and noted that the calculated assessments for properties were approximately \$12,700 to \$51,000. He indicated that in previous years, the Council capped the assessment for properties. City Engineer Sarff stated that City staff continues to evaluate the proposed assessment caps. The current proposal is for residential properties with no sewer or water service from Sherman Street to have a cap of between \$7,000 and \$8,500. Residential properties with sewer and water services from Sherman Street have a cap of between \$9,000 to \$11,000.

City Engineer Sarff reviewed property owner access during the construction project and noted that during the construction process, those with driveways on Sherman Street will not be able to access their driveway during most of the construction process. There may be limited water service disruptions to install and connect the temporary water service to the permanent service. There should be no interruption to sewer service.

David Viscoli, 543 Nicollet Avenue, expressed concern about the removal of the trees and requested reconsidering the removal of the trees. He also asked to have consideration made to traffic calming before the on-ramp to 169 at the end of Sherman Street.

Francis Long, 738 Sherman Street, appeared before Council and stated she is on a corner lot and is concerned about the assessment and how it is figured. City Engineer Sarff stated that according to the assessment policy, the corner lots are assessed 50% for the long side and 100% for the short side; typically, the City Council caps will reduce the costs.

Public Works Director Arnold responded to the concerns about the trees, noting that it is not the desire to remove trees but there are several factors that need to be considered, including the fact that the roots will be cut during the reconstruction process and will either kill or weaken the tree making it a danger. Public Works Director Arnold stated staff would be reviewing possible road-calming options for the portion of Sherman Street that is one way to the on-ramp. Discussion was held about possible options for the trees. Council Member Peterson asked for clarification on corner lots and where the construction will end. City Engineer Sarff noted that there is still some discussion.

A resident from the corner of Grant Avenue and Sherman Street stated she moved to her current residence for the trees. As presented, she will lose three trees during the process and will not be eligible to replant them due to overhead powerlines. She asked if there was an opportunity to replace her trees with shorter trees that would not reach the powerlines. Public Works Director Arnold stated staff is reviewing tree options.

Public Comments

Tom Hagen, 927 Lake Street, appeared before Council and stated as a landlord, in 2023, he is required to install auto-read meters for \$187.00 per meter. He stated he stopped payment on the water meters that the City of North Mankato installed because he wanted to know why Mankato's meters

were only \$155.00. He had read in the Free Press that Mankato's meters were \$155.00 and wanted North Mankato staff to tell him why the meters were less expensive in Mankato. He said the staff finally let him know that Mankato's meters are actually \$310.00, not the \$155.00 that was reported in the Free Press. He said he has now, seven months later, paid for his meters that were installed at the beginning of 2023. He also paid for one installation fee, not three. Public Works Director Arnold stated the City has maintained that we charge the resident the direct cost of the meter.

Barb Church, 102 Wheeler Avenue, appeared before the Council and stated she is not pleased with the budget and thinks the Council is trying to correct 9 years of mistakes. She questioned the fee for the meter installation of \$42.00, stating that is what was in the code.

City Administrator McCann stated the City Code does not reference a fee for the meters. It just states staff may install the meters. He noted the \$42.00 is per meter per property, not separate properties. He commented that Mr. Hagen originally claimed he was not going to pay for the meters because the Council was considering taking over the cost of the meters, he later changed the reason he was not paying for the meters due to him wanting City staff to tell him why Mankato's meters were less expensive.

Consent Agenda

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

- A. Bills and Appropriations.
- B. Res. No. 72-23 Accepting Donations/Contributions/Grants.
- C. Approved Cannabinoid License for O2 LLC d/b/a Spinners Bar & Grill, 301 Belgrade Avenue.
- D. Approved Mobile Food License for Feed Your Soul, LLC, d/b/a Unbakeable, 4122 Shelly Court, New Market, MN 55054.
- E. Approved the Quote for North Mankato Police Department Controls Upgrade and Authorize the City Administrator to Enter into an Agreement with Horwitz for \$88,065.00.

Vote on the motion Steiner, Whitlock, and Carlson, aye, Oachs abstain, Peterson nay.

Motion carried.

Business Items

Res. No. 73-23 Ordering Improvement and Preparation of Plans for Project No. 23-07 ABCDEF Sherman Street Improvement Project.

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Oachs to Adopt Res. No. 73-23 Ordering Improvement and Preparation of Plans for Project No. 23-07 ABCDEF Sherman Street Improvement Project. Vote on the motion Steiner, Oachs, Whitlock, and Carlson, Peterson aye, no nays. Motion carried.

Set Public Hearing for 7 pm, November 20, 2023, to Consider an Ordinance 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.

Council Member Oachs moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner to Set Public Hearing for 7 pm, November 20, 2023, to Consider an Ordinance Amending City Code Chapter 130 General Offenses to Include Chapter 130.12 Possession of Edged Weapons on Public Property. Vote on the motion Steiner, Oachs, Whitlock, and Carlson, Peterson aye, no nays. Motion carried.

Set Public hearing for 7 pm November 20, 2023, to Provide Public Comment Concerning the Use of Body Worn Cameras.

Police Chief Gullickson stated the Police Department would purchase Body Cameras and implement their use in early 2024. State Statute requires the department to obtain public comment before implementing the cameras. He stated the City would accept public comment on the City website and offer a public comment period at the next Council Meeting on November 20, 2023.

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Oachs, to Set a Public Hearing for 7 pm November 20, 2023, to Provide Public Comment Concerning the Use of Body Worn cameras. Vote on the motion Steiner, Oachs, Whitlock, and Carlson, Peterson aye, no nays. Motion carried.

Open Forum

Tom Hagen, 927 Lake Street, appeared before the Council and stated he did not believe he should pay \$42.00 per installation of his three meters but rather only pay one installation fee.

City Administrator and Staff Comments

City Administrator McCann reported the Nicollet County North Mankato Liaison committee met and discussed Public Works Facilities, used vehicles, and the Traverse des Sioux Library.

City Administrator McCann reported the ASA Board Meeting discussed the updated schedule and resolved EPA violations.

Administrative Services Manager-City Clerk Van Genderen reminded everyone that the Special Election for the ISD 77 Referendum would occur on November 7, 2023. Voting is from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. She thanked the election judges for their service.

Mayor and Council Comments

Council Member Oachs requested drivers be aware of pedestrians as it is dark earlier.

Council Member Peterson reminded residents to put their leaves on their boulevard, not the street.

Mayor Carlson stated he attended the NicBluCares bell ringing event.

Mayor Carlson invited 4th, 5th, and 6th, graders to participate in the League of Minnesota Cities Mayor for a day essay contest.

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