

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 September 18, 2023. Mayor Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., asking everyone to join the Pledge of Allegiance. The following were present for roll call: Council Members Peterson, Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, City Administrator McCann, Finance Director Ryan, Community Development Director Fischer, Public Works Director Arnold, City Planner Lassonde, 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 Peterson, Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, and Carlson, aye, no nays. Motion carried.

Approval of Council Minutes from September 5, 2023, Council Meeting.

Council Member Oachs moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to approve the September 5, 2023, Council Meeting Minutes. Vote on the motion Peterson, Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, and Carlson, aye, no nays. Motion carried.

Approval of Council Work Session Minutes from September 5, 2023, Council Work Session.

Council Member Whitlock moved, seconded by Council Member Peterson, to approve the September 5, 2023, Council Work Session Minutes. Vote on the motion Peterson, Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, and Carlson, aye, no nays. Motion carried.

Public Comments

None.

Consent Agenda

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

- A. Bills and Appropriations.
- B. Res. No. 61-23 Accepting Donations/Contributions/Grants.
- C. Approved Audio Permit for Tails N Trails Fun Run 5K/BENCHS on September 30, 2023, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Spring Lake Park.

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

Business Items

Res. No. 62-23 Approving a Preliminary Tax Levy.

Finance Director Ryan noted that the Preliminary Tax Levy is based on City Council discussion and guidance. Currently, the rate increase would be 1.5%, and the levy increase would be 12.93%. She reminded the Council that it would be the max. Council could decrease the levy for final approval in December but could not increase the levy. She noted a public hearing would be held on December 14, 2023, and the final levy would be established on December 18, 2023. City Administrator McCann pointed out that the current budget presentations are based on the 1.5% rate increase. City Administrator McCann said that the rate is also dependent on the County's preliminary spring assessment numbers; the new numbers will be coming out soon. Mayor Carlson requested information on the website concerning what the levy and the tax rate references. Finance Director Ryan mentioned

that there is a summary in one of the first budget presentations. Mayor Carlson requested clarification on if the average home is \$250,000 or if it should be higher. Finance Director Ryan stated the City provides several examples of homes, including those above and below the \$250,000 dollar mark. She did remind the City Council that the City is only one portion of the taxes.

Council Member Peterson moved, seconded by Council Member Whitlock, to Adopt Res. No. 62-23 Approving a Preliminary Tax Levy. Vote on the motion Peterson, Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, and Carlson, aye, no nays. Motion carried.

Set a Public Hearing for 7 p.m. on Monday, October 2, 2023, to Consider an Ordinance Amending Chapter 31.01 (C) (6), Administrator.

Attorney Kennedy reported the proposed Ordinance would repeal the language that set forth the City Administrator's spending authority. He noted most Cities managed the amount through a resolution and not through an Ordinance, as it is easier to change a resolution.

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Oachs, to Set a Public Hearing for 7 p.m. on Monday, October 2, 2023, to Consider an Ordinance Amending Chapter 31.01 (C) (6), Administrator. Vote on the motion Peterson, Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, and Carlson, aye, no nays. Motion carried.

Set a Public Hearing for 7 p.m. on Monday, October 2, 2023, to Consider an Ordinance Amending City Code Chapter 114.1 Cannabis and Marijuana Smoking and Vaping.

Attorney Kennedy stated the Ordinance is in response to the Council's direction to limit the smoking of marijuana to larger parks. City Administrator McCann stated the Ordinance language is open for discussion. Council Member Peterson requested clarification on if it is still illegal near minors. Attorney Kennedy said it is still illegal as that language is a part of the State Statute. Police Chief Gullickson spoke before the City Council and noted that City staff attended a meeting with Nicollet County and surrounding jurisdictions concerning regulations. He said the concern he came away with was overregulation of the product, where individuals will be too restricted in using the product that they will be forced to break the law. Mayor Carlson noted that Caswell was included as a park where smoking marijuana was allowed and stated he disagreed with its inclusion. It was determined to eliminate Caswell Parks but to add Wheeler Park.

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Whitlock, to Set a Public Hearing for 7 p.m. on Monday, October 2, 2023, to Consider an Ordinance Amending City Code Chapter 114.1 Cannabis and Marijuana Smoking and Vaping. Vote on the motion Peterson, Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, and Carlson, aye, no nays. Motion carried.

Res. No. 63-23 Ordering the Preparation of Report on Improvement for Project No. 23-07 ABCDEF Sherman Street Improvement Project.

City Engineer Sarff stated the project would be a complete reconstruction of the sanitary sewer, watermain, and storm sewer systems, along with complete reconstruction of the existing street and sidewalks and street lighting. He noted that not all of the streets would include sewer and water. The total estimated project cost is approximately \$3.2 million. The segment of Sherman Street between South Avenue and Belgrade Avenue is designated as a Municipal State Aid Street, so an estimated \$700,000 of State Aid could be applied to the project. City Engineer Sarff noted that the City is currently in the budgeting process for 2024. Still, staff wanted to start the process, so if the budget includes the reconstruction, the bidding process can occur early in the year. He also noted that the assessment process does take additional time to complete.

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Peterson, to Adopt Res. No. 63-23 Ordering the Preparation of Report on Improvement for Project No. 23-07 ABCDEF Sherman Street Improvement Project. Vote on the motion Peterson, Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, and Carlson, aye, no nays. Motion carried.

Open Forum

Tom Hagen, 927 Lake Street, appeared before Council and thanked them for their work.

City Administrator and Staff Comments

City Administrator McCann invited everyone to Bier on Belgrade on Saturday, September 23rd, from 2:00-10:00 p.m.

City Administrator McCann reminded residents about Music in the Park on Thursdays in September from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Wheeler Park.

City Administrator McCann invited everyone to participate in the MAPO ADA Transition Study Open House on September 26th from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Intergovernmental Center.

City Administrator McCann announced the Trivia Nights with Radio Mankato at the Spring Lake Warming House from 6:30-9:30 p.m. on September 29th, October 13th, November 3rd, and December 1st.

City Administrator McCann announced First Aid and CPR Training on Monday, October 2nd, from 5:15 -7:30 p.m. at the Warming House.

City Administrator McCann thanked all who attended the Symphony on the Prairie concert and all those who made it possible.

City Administrator McCann noted that the Norwood Inn sale is almost complete.

City Administrator McCann reported the speed radar was set up on Sherman Street due to the concerns expressed by Council Member Steiner.

Mayor and Council Comments

Council Member Oachs noted the ASA Board Meeting would be held on Friday, September 22nd, and a report and information would be forthcoming.

Council Member Peterson thanked the City for not collecting on the concession stand funds during Pack the Stands, as the event raised close to \$20,000 for the Blaisdell family, who lost their child.

At 7:31 p.m., on a motion by Council Member Steiner, seconded by Council Member Oachs, the Council Meeting was adjourned.

Mayor

City Clerk