

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 September 20, 2021. Mayor Dehen called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, asking that everyone join in the Pledge of Allegiance. The following were present for roll call: Council Members Steiner, Norland, Oachs, Whitlock, City Administrator Harrenstein, City Attorney Kennedy, Finance Director McCann, and City Clerk Van Genderen. Absent: Community Development Director Fischer and Public Works Director Host.

#### **Approval of Agenda**

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

#### **Approval of Council Minutes from September 7, 2021, Council Meeting.**

**Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to approve the Council meeting minutes of September 7, 2021. Vote on the motion Norland, Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

#### **Approval of Council Work Session Minutes from September 13, 2021, Council Work Session.**

**Council Member Whitlock moved, seconded by Council Member Oachs, to approve the Council Work Session Minutes of September 13, 2021. Vote on the motion Norland, Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

#### **Consent Agenda**

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

- A. Bills and Appropriations.
- B. Res. No. 59-21 Accepting Donations/Contributions/Grants.
- C. Approved Audio Permit for Kato Fall Classic Bike Polo Tournament on September 24, 25, and 26, 2021, at Spring Lake Park Hockey Rinks.
- D. Approved Audio Permit for Bridges Community School Family Movie Night on October 15, 2021, at Bridges Community School from 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm.

**Vote on the motion Norland, Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

#### **Public Comments Concerning Business Items on the Agenda**

None.

#### **Business Items**

##### **Res. No. 60-21 Approving a Maximum Tax Levy.**

City Administrator Harrenstein reported the resolution is part of state-mandated requirements. The Council must establish a maximum levy. Staff recommends a 2% Levy increase, increasing the levy by \$139,667 with \$82,000 set aside for General Levy and \$57,000 for the Debt Service Fund. He noted the community grew by 4%, with 1.3% of that increase as new construction. The proposed levy would decline the tax rate by .93% and continue the decline of the tax rate. City Administrator Harrenstein noted Finance Director McCann had included additional Levy options, including a levy that only captures the New Growth, a 2.5% Levy Increase, a 3% Levy Increase and a Flat Tax Rate which would be an almost 4% Levy Increase. He noted that the Council could decrease the tax levy

but could not increase the levy in December when the final levy is passed. **Council Member Oachs moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to Set the Tax Levy at 2% and adopt Res. No. 60-21 Approving a Maximum Levy. Vote on the motion Norland, Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

**Res. No. 61-21 Providing for the Competitive Negotiated Sale of General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2021C.**

Tammy Omdal, bond counsel from Northland Securities, appeared before Council and reported the proposed 2021C Bond would refinance \$2.6 million for the sole purpose of refunding the 2010A and 2014A bonds that were used to finance street and utility projects. She noted the refinancing would save approximately \$216,000 and approximately 7% savings. The refinancing would not change the payment plan or the length of the bond. Ms. Omdal reported it is recommended to request a rating from Standard and Poor's, and the City has a strong AA rating. The bonds will be sold on November 1, 2021, and the City Council will be requested to approve the sale at the November 1, 2021, Council Meeting. A question was raised concerning if the rates would change. Ms. Omdal reported the sale would not need to proceed if the projected savings would not be met. **Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Oachs, to adopt Res. No. 61-21 Providing for the Competitive Negotiated Sale of General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2021C. Vote on the motion Norland, Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

**City Administrator and Staff Comments**

City Administrator Harrenstein invited everyone out to Music in the Park on Thursdays in September from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

City Administrator Harrenstein invited everyone out to "Pack the Stands" for the ribbon cutting at Caswell North Soccer Complex on September 25, 2021, to celebrate the new turf installation.

City Administrator Harrenstein invited everyone out to Concerts on Commerce on Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm at 1960 Commerce Drive.

City Administrator Harrenstein invited everyone out to Party on the Prairie on Saturday, October 2, 2021, from 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm at Benson Park.

City Administrator Harrenstein invited everyone out to the North Mankato Farmers' Market on Mondays from 3-6 pm at SCC. The final day is October 18, 2021.

City Administrator Harrenstein reminded everyone about Junk Drop-off October 7-10 at the Public Works Building at 610 Webster Avenue. A paper shredding truck will be on-site Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup> starting at 8 am and will leave when full.

The leaf collection schedule and map will be released soon.

City Administrator Harrenstein reported MAPO is still accepting comments about the Hwy 14 Pedestrian Bridge Study.

City Administrator Harrenstein commented that the City is still under Water Conservation Measures.

**Mayor and Council Comments**

Council Member Oachs thanked all who came out for Bier on Belgrade on Saturday, September 18, 2021.

Council Member Whitlock thanked everyone who came out for Symphony on the Prairie.

At 7:18 pm, on a motion by Council Member Norland, seconded by Council Member Oachs, the Council Meeting was adjourned.

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Mayor

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City Clerk