

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 February 16, 2021. City Administrator Harrenstein on March 31, 2020, under MN Statute Section 13D.021, declared the use of electronic meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic. 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 remotely through Zoom for roll call: Council Members Whitlock, Oachs and Steiner, City Attorney Kennedy, Finance Director McCann, Community Development Director Fischer, and Public Works Director Host, present in the Council Chambers for roll call: Council Member Norland, Mayor Dehen, City Administrator Harrenstein, and City Clerk Van Genderen. Citizen participation was available through teleconference.

**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 Meeting Minutes from the January 28, 2021, Special Closed Council Meeting.**

**Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to approve the minutes of the Special Closed Council meeting of January 28, 2021. Vote on the motion: Norland, Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

**Approval of Council Minutes from the February 1, 2021, Council Meeting.**

**Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to approve the minutes of the Council meeting of February 1, 2021. Vote on the motion: Norland, Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

**Approval of Council Work Session Minutes from the February 8, 2021, Council Work Session Meeting.**

**Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to approve the minutes of the Council Work Session meeting of February 8, 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. 15-21 Approving Donations/Contributions/Grants.
- C. Res. No. 16-21 Authorizing Outdoor Recreation Grant Program Application.

**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. 17-21 Requesting the Advance of Municipal State Aid Funds for Municipal Construction Projects and Bond Principal Payment.**

City Engineer Sarff reported the Minnesota Department of Transportation allows cities to advance municipal state aid funds as required to construct state-aid projects when the city's Municipal State Aid Construction account does not have adequate funds to cover the eligible project costs. In 2020, the City had requested an advance of municipal state aid funds for the construction of several projects, including the 2020 State Aid Overlay Project and the Monroe Avenue Street & Utility Reconstruction Project. Decreased transportation revenue in 2020 due to the COVID 19 pandemic resulted in MnDOT issuing a temporary moratorium on state aid advances. The City received less state aid funds than anticipated for the 2020 State Aid Overlay Project and the Monroe Avenue Street & Utility Reconstruction Project. Municipal State Aid advances will resume on a limited basis in 2021, and the City is eligible to make an advance request. The proposed advance would include the remaining state aid funds on the projects started in 2020, as well as the principal payment on existing state aid bond that was issued in 2015 to finance the City's portion of the Trunk Highway 14/County State Aid Highway 41 (Rockford Road) interchange project.

**Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Whitlock, to adopt Res. No. 17-21 Requesting the Advance of Municipal State Aid Funds for Municipal Construction Projects and Bond Principal Payment. Vote on the motion: Norland, Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

**Res. No. 18-21 Supporting Pursuit of Local Road Improvement Program Funding from the Minnesota Department of Transportation for the Lor Ray Drive and Somerset Lane Improvement Project.**

City Engineer Sarff reported in 2020, the Minnesota Legislature appropriated approximately \$75 million in bond funds statewide to the Local Roads Improvement Program (LRIP). A portion of the program provides funds for the costs of constructing or reconstructing city streets, county highways, or town roads with statewide or regional significance. This is a competitive grant opportunity available to cities, counties, and townships throughout the state. The maximum amount of each grant is \$1,250,000. Staff is recommending a grant application for the Lor Ray Drive and Somerset Lane improvement in the amount of \$1,250,000 be submitted. The project would include reconstructing the existing two-lane roadways on Lor Ray Drive and Somerset Lane with a 40-foot-wide bituminous street with curb and gutter on both sides. The reconstruction would also include a mini-roundabout at the intersection of Lor Ray Drive and Carlson Drive/Countryside Drive.

**Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to adopt Res. No. 18-21 Supporting Pursuit of Local Road Improvement Program Funding from the Minnesota Department of Transportation for the Lor Ray Drive and Somerset Lane Improvement Project. Vote on the motion: Norland, Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

**Approval of Final Plat of Pleasant View Cottages: A Request from ALH Land Company.**

Community Development Director Fischer reported in January 2021 the applicant received the approval of the Preliminary Plat of Pleasant View Cottages. The plat accommodates the development of three new townhome buildings on a piece of property being annexed into the City limits along Pleasant View Drive. The final plat consists of one lot to accommodate the 3 new townhome buildings, 2 new driveways, a stormwater pond, an existing home, and an existing storage building.

The proposed platting meets all of the City Code regulations, including building setback, density requirements, lot size requirements, ground coverage, and building height regulations within an R-3 zoning district.

**Council Member Whitlock moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to Approve Final Plat of Pleasant View Cottages: A Request from ALH Land Company. Vote on the motion: Norland, Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

**Open Forum**

None.

**City Administrator and Staff Comments**

City Administrator Harrenstein noted MAHA would be conducting a Mite tournament at the end of the week at Spring Lake Park.

**Mayor and Council Comments**

Council Member Norland thanked staff for their work on the Regional Economic Alliance.

Mayor Dehen noted Connecting Commerce was conducting a Love Your Firefighter Raffle to support the North Mankato Firefighters.

At 7:27 p.m., 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