

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 May 2, 2022. 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 Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, Interim City Administrator Fischer, Public Works Director Host, Finance Director McCann, and City Clerk Van Genderen.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Council Minutes from April 18, 2022, Council Meeting.

Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Oachs, to approve the Council meeting minutes of April 18, 2022. Vote on the Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Approval of Council Work Session Minutes from April 25, 2022, Meeting.

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Oachs, to approve the Council Work Session Minutes from April 25, 2022. Vote on the Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Public Hearing, 7 p.m. Lor Ray Drive Street & Utility Improvement Project City Project No. 21-05 ABCDEF Assessment.

Public Works Director Host reviewed the reconstruction project on Lor Ray Drive from a point approximately 350 feet north of White Oak Drive to Somerset Lane. The project is included in the City's CIP plan for 2022. Bids for the project were opened on March 29, 2022. The project consists of Sanitary Sewer improvements, Watermain improvements, Storm Sewer construction, and the construction of a stormwater pond. Street and surface improvements for the project include a 40-foot-wide bituminous street with a concrete curb and gutter on both sides, an 8' wide concrete walk along the east side, and an 8' wide bituminous trail along the west side. The project will meet State Aid standards for projected future traffic. The project will also include sixteen new residential-style street lights.

The total estimated cost for the project is \$4,249,000, with funds coming from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for \$1,016,000, Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) for \$575,000, Municipal State Aid Advance of \$400,000, and Special Assessments of \$424,879 with the City obtaining General Obligation bonds of \$2,258,000.

Finance Director McCann reported the assessments for the sanitary sewer were approximately \$4,100 per acre, and the evaluation for storm sewer, street, surface, and street lighting was roughly \$26.00 per linear foot of frontage. The assessments will be deferred until the respective parcels are annexed into the City or sold. No interest will be charged on the deferred assessments, as is the City practice.

Public Works Director Host noted the project would begin construction in late May or early June and be complete in early November.

Barb Church, 102 Wheeler Avenue, requested clarification on if the assessments were deferred until annexed or sold and if the City is taking on a similar risk as it did in the 1980s?

Mayor Dehen stated this project is different because the road is the City's. The City is not taking on the risk associated with new development and the properties being sold in those developments.

Council Member Steiner requested clarification on resident access during construction. Public Works Director Host reported residents have been contacted about the project and alternative routes provided. He noted that those who live along the project would use the temporary haul access road to access their homes.

Council Member Norland requested clarification on erosion control associated with piping water down ravines to the Minnesota River. Public Works Director Host commented that the water would be piped to the bottom of the ravine to minimize erosion, and the stormwater holding ponds would hold water and slow the process of water matriculation to the Minnesota River.

Consent Agenda

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

- A. Bills and Appropriations.
- B. Res. No. 45-22 Approving Donations/Contributions/Grants.
- C. Res. No. 46-22 Approving Consent Assessment Agreement.
- D. Accept Property Owner Petition to Annex 38.94 Acres of Land into the City of North Mankato and Set a Public Hearing for 7:00 p.m. on June 6, 2022.
- E. Res No. 47-22 Appointing Election Judges for 2022 Congressional District 1 Special Election Primary.
- F. Accept and implement the April Traffic & Safety Committee Recommendations.
- G. Approved Audio Permit for August 21, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Spring Lake Park Shelter 2 for Risen Savior Opening Service.
- H. Approved Audio Permit for May 7, 2022, from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at Spinners Bar for Sip of Whiskey Band.
- I. Approved Audio Permit for May 7, 2022, from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Circle Inn for the Stache Bash.
- J. Approved Audio Permit for May 14, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Circle Inn for My Happy Haven Fundraiser.

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

Public Comments Concerning Business Items on the Agenda.

None.

Business Items

Res. No. 48-22 Adopting Assessment Project No. 21-05 ABCDEF Lor Ray Drive Street & Utility Improvement Project.

Mayor Dehen requested information on the reclamation of the bituminous surface. Public Works Director Host reported the City does not intend to reclaim the bituminous as it is the contractors, and they may reclaim it.

Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to Adopt Res. No. 48-22 Assessment Project No. 21-05 ABCDEF Lor Ray Drive Street & Utility Improvement Project. Vote on the Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Res No. 49-22 Accepting Bid Project No. 21-05 ABCDEF Lor Ray Drive Street & Utility Improvement Project.

Public Works Director Host reported the bids were opened on March 29, 2022, and two bids were accepted:

Bidder:	Bid Amount
Holtmeier Construction, Inc.	\$3,511,842.87
Geislinger & Sons, Inc.	\$4,320,842.30

The low bidder was Holtmeier Construction, Inc., and City staff and Engineer Sarff have reviewed the bid and recommend accepting the Holtmeier bid.

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Oachs, to Adopt Res. No. 49-22 Accepting Bid Project No. 21-05 ABCDEF Lor Ray Drive Street & Utility Improvement Project. Vote on the Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Res. No. 50-22 A Resolution to Elect the Standard Allowance Available Under the Revenue Loss Provision of the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Established Under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Finance Director McCann reported the ARPA fund use must be reported, but the government has created a provision that a City can show up to \$10 million as lost revenue. He reported the League of Minnesota Cities and the City’s auditors suggest the City utilize this option. The City will receive approximately \$1.5 million. The proposed resolution indicates the \$1.5 million in lost revenue. The City will use the funds according to the required regulations, including the Lor Ray Drive project, McKinley Avenue project, and the Splash Pad.

Council Member Oachs moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to Adopt Res. No. 50-22 A Resolution to Elect the Standard Allowance Available Under the Revenue Loss Provision of the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Established Under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Vote on the Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Res. No. 51-22 Resolution of Support for the MnDOT Intersection Control Evaluation (ICE) Study.

Public Works Director Host reported the resolution is a follow-up to the MnDOT Council Work Session presentation. The resolution regards bridge no. 07042 at the intersection of 169 and Belgrade Avenue. Staff reviewed and presented preferred alternatives. The Resolution confirms those preferred alternatives and indicates the City will work with MnDOT on the project. The project will require City cost participation, but the City has reserved the right to use alternative funding sources, including Local State Aid or Federal Funding. The project is anticipated to be on MnDOT’s 2025 schedule, but they have not secured funding. The staff will follow up with MnDOT and continue to appraise the Council of any changes or further action.

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Oachs, to adopt Res. No. 51-22 Resolution of Support for the MnDOT Intersection Control Evaluation (ICE) Study. Vote on the Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Res. No. 52-22 Proclaiming No Mow May in North Mankato.

Mayor Dehen commented that the resolution suspends consequences for allowing yards to grow above the 6-inch limit set out in the City Code to allow extra foraging for pollinators. He noted this continues the City's efforts to provide pollinator habitat by establishing the Natural Lawn Ordinance in 2021, the City's Benson Park prairie, Bluff Park prairie, and City Hall's pollinator garden. Interim City Administrator Fischer reported citizens who want to participate should sign-up online, and there will be a link on the front page of the City's website, or they can call in to get signed up. It will allow the City to track how popular the program is and inform City staff of the participating properties. Council Member Norland encouraged residents to avoid the use of pesticides and herbicides. Mayor Dehen noted this does not allow residents to allow noxious weeds on their properties. Council Member Oachs requested residents let their neighbors know that they are participating to prevent them from reporting their property to the City. It was noted that all parcels would need to come back into compliance on June 1.

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to Adopt Res No. 52-22 Proclaiming No Mow May in North Mankato. Vote on the Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.

City Administrator and Staff Comments

Interim City Administrator Fischer reported that the Police Department recently underwent a review of their Minnesota Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training. They conducted a compliance review of mandated training and department policies on the Use of Force/Firearms training, Emergency Vehicle Operation, Pursuit Driving training, and mandated departmental policies. Interim City Administrator Fischer reported the department passed the review.

Public Works Director Host reported that the Street Department wrapped up the spring cleanup, and a report concerning the event will be forthcoming.

Mayor and Council Comments

Council Member Steiner requested an update on the Allen Avenue property. Interim City Administrator Fischer reported that no further action had been taken in compliance with the court ruling.

Council Member Oachs noted that residents might be able to apply for Frontline Worker Pay once the website is up and running.

Council Member Oachs reported she attended the ASA Board Meeting where information was provided concerning significant rink improvements that will need to be made.

Council Member Oachs said she had received numerous calls concerning the speed on Lookout Drive and requested that City staff look at ways to reduce the speed before the Lookout Drive Study is completed.

Interim City Administrator Fischer reported the speed has been studied and shows that, on average, the speed traveled is lower than the posted speed. The City cannot just make a speed limit change on this road without additional information coming from the traffic study. but the Police Department can continue to enforce the speed limit as the study is completed.

Council Member Norland thanked donors for library donations.

Council Member Whitlock noted that the Lookout Drive ramps are closed from May 2nd until June to repair damage to the underpass.

At 7:28 pm, on a motion by Council Member Whitlock, seconded by Council Member Steiner, the Council Meeting was adjourned.

Mayor

City Clerk