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 16, 2024. 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 Oachs, Peterson, Whitlock, Steiner, City Administrator McCann, Finance Director Ryan, Community Development Director Fischer, Public Works Director Arnold, Attorney Kennedy, 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 September 3, 2024, Council Meeting.

Council Member Peterson moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to approve the September 3, 2024, Council Meeting Minutes. Vote on the motion Steiner, Peterson, Whitlock, and Carlson, aye, Oachs abstain, no nays. Motion carried.

Approval of Council Work Session Minutes from September 3, 2024, Council Work Session. Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Whitlock, to approve the September 3, 2024, Council Work Session Minutes. Vote on the motion Steiner, Peterson, Whitlock, and Carlson, aye, Oachs abstain, no nays. Motion carried.

Public Comments

Suzanne Beetsch, 925 Lake Street, appeared before Council and supported the passage of the Wildlife Management Plan and Policy.

Tom Hagen, 927 Lake Street, appeared before Council and supported the passage of the Wildlife Management Plan and Policy.

Amanda Mutch, 917 Lake Street, appeared before Council and supported the passage of the Wildlife Management Plan and Policy.

Consent Agenda

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

A. Bills and Appropriations.
B. Consider Resolution Approving Donations/Contributions/Grants.
C. Consider Approving Parade Permit Application for Mankato West Cross Country Meet on September 24, 2024, from 3:45 pm to 6:30 pm at Benson Park.
D. Consider Approving Parade Permit Application for Mankato East Cross Country Meet on October 9, 2024, from 3:45 pm to 6:30 pm at Benson Park.
E. Consider Approving Parade Permit Application for Mankato West/East Cross Country on October 24, 2024, from 3:15 pm to 5:30 pm at Benson Park.
F. Consider Approving Parade Permit Application for Bethany Lutheran College on September 18, 2024, from 4:15 pm to 6:30 pm at Benson Park.

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

Business Items

Receive Information from the Small Business Administration Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience Programs.

Arleace Green from the Small Business Administration Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience Programs appeared before the Council and provided information on two programs that were available for the community to help with disaster recovery.

Res. No. 75-24 Relating to $2,277,000 Taxable General Obligation Bonds, Series 2024B, Concurring in the Action of the North Mankato Port Authority Commission Awarding the Issuance and Sale Thereof and Authorizing the Execution of a Continuing Disclosure Certificate.

City Administrator McCann reported the Port Authority approved the sale earlier in the evening. The bonds were approved to finance the purchase of Port Authority land in the industrial park to expand business opportunities in the City. He noted that if the Port Authority sells the property, the bond could be paid off.

Tammy Omdal, Northland Securities, noted the bonds were approved by the Port Authority, and this resolution would concur with the Port Authorities action. The bonds are backed by the full faith and credit of the City. The bonds are non-rated with a 10-year term. The Port Authority can pay off the bonds early. The bonds may look a little different with a higher interest rate due to the fact they can be called at any time and they are taxable bonds because the funds were used to purchase property to sell it to a private company. The interest rate is 5.85%.

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Whitlock to adopt Res. No. 75-24 Relating to $2,277,000 Taxable General Obligation Bonds, Series 2024B, concurring in the Action of the North Mankato Port Authority Commission Awarding the Issuance and Sale Thereof and Authorizing the Execution of a Continuing Disclosure Certificate. Vote on the motion Steiner, Oachs, Peterson, Whitlock, and Carlson, aye, no nays. Motion carried.

Res. No. 76-24 Approving a Proposed Tax Levy.

Finance Director Ryan presented five options for the City Council to consider. She indicated that tonight, the Council would approve the maximum tax levy, but the final levy could be lower. She noted that even with no rate change, the levy would increase 8.22% due to new construction and increased home values and to look more at the Tax Rate increase. Option A was what was originally presented to the Council and would have a 2.407% Tax Rate increase. Option B would have the Urgent and High Needs but would remove the Drug Task Force (DTF) Agent and the Facility Maintenance position. Option C would remove the DTF Agent and Facility Maintenance Position, reduce equipment, and no street radios would be purchased. Option D would remove the street sweeper and the DTF Agent and Facility Maintenance Position. She noted these changes were made after discussion with the department heads who had indicated they were comfortable with the changes. Finance Director Ryan stated the increase in taxes for a home worth $288,600 would be $67.00 a year for Option A; Option B would have an increase of $46.00 a year, Option C would have an increase of $30.00 a year, and Option D would have an increase of $9.00 a year. Council Member Peterson recommended option B for the max levy but add in the DTF agent. Council Member Steiner stated option B with the DTF agent was his suggestion. Council Member Oachs stated she wanted the DTF agent but wanted option D. Mayor Carlson said he preferred option D with the DTF agent. Council Member Whitlock also requested Option B.

Council Member Peterson moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner to Adopt Res. No. 76-24 Approving a Proposed Tax Levy-Option B with a DTF Agent. Vote on the motion Steiner, Peterson, Whitlock, and Carlson, aye, Oachs nay. Motion carried.

Set a Public Hearing for 7 pm on October 7, 2024, to Consider an Ordinance Repealing and Replacing Section 113.03 of the North Mankato City Code.

Attorney Kennedy noted the ordinance would increase the number of Cannabinoid licenses from 5 to 10 based on the discussion with the Council at the September 3, 2024, Council Meeting.

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Oachs to Set a Public Hearing for 7 pm on October 7, 2024, to Consider an Ordinance Repealing and Replacing Section 113.03 of the North Mankato City Code. Vote on the motion Steiner, Oachs, Peterson, Whitlock, and Carlson, aye, no nays. Motion carried.

Res. No. 77-24 Authorizing Entering into an Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Tranportation for Federal Participation in a Force Account.

Community Development Director Fischer reported the City applied for a grant to replace the fast EV charger on Commerce Drive. The baseline cost for the replacement is $59,470 of which the grant would cover 80% and the City would cover the remaining 20%. The resolution would allow the City to enter into an agreement for the funds.

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Oachs to Adopt Res. No. 77-24 Authorizing Entering into an Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Tranportation for Federal Participation in a Force Account. Vote on the motion Steiner, Oachs, Peterson, Whitlock, and Carlson, aye, no nays. Motion carried.

Res. No. 78-24 Accepting Bid Rehabilitation of Well No. 8.

City Engineer Sarff reported the City has placed all of the wells on a rotating maintenance program and Well No. 8 is up for repair. The City requested bids from three companies, Bergerson-Caswell, Inc., Traut Companies and Thein Well. Thein Well declined to bid citing workload. The bids were opened and tabulated and the low bid went to Bergerson-Caswell, Inc.

	BIDDERS	TOTAL PROJECT BASE BID PRICE	Add Item No. 1 (Well Maintenance Work)	Add Item No. 2 (Additional Replacement Prices)
1.	Bergerson Caswell, Inc. Maple Plain, MN	$104,290.00	$26,000.00	$76,730.00
2.	Traut Companies St. Joseph, MN	$178,015.00	$40,500.00	$74,700.00

Engineer Sarff stated staff recommends awarding the project to Bergerson-Caswell, Inc.

Council Member Peterson moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner to Adopt No. 78-24 Accepting Bid Rehabilitation of Well No. 8. Vote on the motion Steiner, Oachs, Peterson, Whitlock, and Carlson, aye, no nays. Motion carried.

Res. No. 79-24 Adopt a Deer Management Plan and Policy for the City of North Mankato.

City Planner Lassonde reported that the city had undergone a study of the deer population and had worked with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to prepare a Wildlife Management Plan. He noted that the DNR has approved the plan. The plan outlines approval process procedures and responsibilities. Before the DNR approves the action, certain information must be gathered and confirmed, which includes a threat to humans; if no action is taken, will it be detrimental to the health of the animals? Has the City educated the public, and has the public taken steps to mitigate the issue? If the DNR approves the removal of deer, the City will contact the United States Department of

Agriculture to come in and cull the herd. City Planner Lassonde reported the plan would be reviewed every 5-years. It was discussed that the adoption of the plan allows the City to apply for a permit to hunt deer. City Planner Lassonde also noted that the local DNR is learning about the process as it is not prevalent in southern Minnesota and is learning from northern Minnesota.

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Whitlock, to Adopt Res. No. 79-24 Adopt a Deer Management Plan and Policy for the City of North Mankato. Vote on the motion Steiner, Oachs, Peterson, Whitlock, and Carlson, aye, no nays. Motion carried.

Open Forum

Tom Hagen, 927 Lake Street, appeared before the Council and stated he did not approve of the process taken by City staff to update the Rental Density Plan.

City Administrator and Staff Comments

Public Works Director Arnold updated the City Council on the Sherman Street Reconstruction project, noting the project was almost complete, but the road was still closed.

Public Works Director Arnold reported work has begun on the Hoover Street Safe Routes to School Construction Project.

Public Works Director Arnold advised residents that work is starting on lining the sanitary sewers in the Marvin Blvd and Valerie Lane area and Carol Court, so be aware of equipment and traffic.

Public Works Director Arnold invited residents to the North Mankato Fall Drop-Off event, which will be held Thursday, October 3rd, through Sunday, October 6th.

Public Works Director Arnold reported that city staff will begin meeting with FEMA to begin the process of recovering funds.

Public Works Director Arnold reminded residents the Splash Pad will remain open until the end of September.

Administrative Services Manager-City Clerk Van Genderen noted the donations to the Youth Tennis Program were in memory of Michael Dwayne Matzke.

City Administrator McCann invited everyone out to Celebrate North Mankato's 125th Anniversary at Music in the Park on September 19th.

City Administrator McCann invited everyone to Culture and Recreation Trivia Nights beginning September 27th.

City Administrator McCann invited everyone to Party on the Prairie on Saturday, October 5th, from 2 pm to 6 pm.

City Administrator McCann encouraged everyone to attend the Fire Department open house on Sunday, October 6th, from 11 am to 1 pm at Fire Station #2.

City Administrator McCann invited everyone to the North Mankato Farmers' Market Celebration of Harvest on Monday, October 6th, from 3 pm to 6 pm.

City Administrator McCann noted Candidate forums hosted by the League of Women Voters would be recorded on September 24th, and residents can watch the recordings when they are made available.

City Administrator McCann thanked everyone who attended Symphony on the Prairie and thanked all the performers, staff, and sponsors.

Mayor and Council Comments

Council Member Whitlock stated Symphony on the Prairie was wonderful and thanked everyone for going out.

Council Member Peterson stated he does not fill out online surveys and prefers in person communication.

At 8:09 p.m., on a motion by Council Member Whitlock, seconded by Council Member Steiner, the Council Meeting was adjourned.

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Mayor

_____
City Clerk