

Intergovernmental Committee

Minutes

7:00 PM 2/16/2011

North Mankato City Council Chamber

1. Call to Order at 7:01
2. Committee members attending: Mayor Eric Anderson and Council member Mark Frost of the City of Mankato and Mayor Mark Dehen and Council member Bob Freyberg of the City of North Mankato.

3. New Business

a. Fourth of July

Mankato it is not certain if the fireworks will proceed at this time. They still need to do fundraising. They have also not uncertain as to the location of the fireworks.

Currently, North Mankato is still intending to have their own fireworks display at the conclusion of the North Mankato Fun Days celebration, sponsored by the Civic and Commerce organization.

i. Traffic concerns

If Mankato again utilizes the Riverfront Park, Mayor Dehen voiced concerns regarding traffic and Highway 169. All representatives agreed that safety was a primary concern. With that in mind we will work with MN DOT and the Highway Patrol on a traffic control plan, e.g. no parking allowed along Highway 169 and Slow Traffic lighted signs, as well as Highway Patrol traffic management.

ii. Veterans Memorial Bridge viewing stand

The suggestion was made by Councilman Freyberg to consider temporarily closing the Veterans Memorial Bridge for use as a viewing stand for the fireworks at Riverfront Park. The mayors will jointly submit a letter to MN DOT requesting permission for that temporary closure. The specifics will be worked out regarding parking, etc. upon approval.

Action Step: Joint letter to MN DOT for permit

iii. Funding mechanism

Council member Freyberg recommended enclosing a request for voluntary donation be included in both cities utility bills to generate the necessary funding for the fireworks presentation. The Mankato typically spends \$15,000/year on fireworks. In recent years they have had success working with Linder Radio Group for funding. Both cities will consider a voluntary donation strategy.

b. Flood control preparations

i. Cooperative plans/readiness

Flood control was discussed due to the relatively high water table and snowfall issues this winter. Council member Freyberg and Mayor Anderson both discussed the changing hydrodynamics of our area due to farm tiling and city contributions resulting in a consistent pattern of increasing water levels over the last 3 decades. He is also concerned over the excess debris from falling trees associated with our initial snowfall of the season.

The flood preparedness plans were recognized and discussed. Those plans are being coordinated by the emergency management personnel in both cities. All members were comfortable and confident that the plan is in place would be sufficient to withstand typical flooding threats. Mayor Anderson discussed potential catastrophic flood levels should be Rapidan dam the compromise. His staff is in contact with dam operators and will be monitoring that situation.

c. League of MN Cities Community Conversation project

i. Joint application

LMC Community Conversation program was discussed. Both city councils have approved a resolution to jointly submit an application to be a host community for that program. It is designed to allow citizen input prioritizing city services and discussing strategies to pay for those services into the future in light of the changing economics in a state of Minnesota. The mayors will direct city staff to cooperatively complete and submit that application before the February 25.

Action Step: Staff submit joint application before 2/25.

d. Veterans' Memorial Park

i. Intercity cooperation project

The Veterans Memorial Park was discussed. There is currently a fundraiser in place to generate the funding necessary, approximately \$150, 000, to complete that project. Terry Hoelmer of the North Mankato VFW was chairing that fundraiser. Memorial paver stones are being sold as part of that process and Council member Frost noted he has already committed to remembering his family members who have served in the military. Mr. Frost will check on the progress of the fundraiser to date.

Mayor Dehen indicated that the city of North Mankato would be willing to contribute in kind services to the completion of that project. Council member Frost indicated that the City of Mankato was willing to do the same.

Mayor Dehen also raised the issue of a future Veteran's Trail reaching from the Vietnam Memorial Stoltzman Road to the Civil War Memorial in Lincoln Park to the Korean War Memorial at the library to the Veterans Memorial Park, across the Veterans Memorial Bridge to the World War II veterans memorial in Wheeler Park and onto the Jacob Thompson memorial fishing pier at Spring Lake Park. Potentially a commemorative walk or race could be held on Veterans Day or Flag Day in conjunction with the local veterans' organizations.

Action Step: Frost check on fund raiser progress

e. Charitable Gambling

i. City %

Charitable gambling was discussed to assure that the two cities were relatively similar in their ordinances and her application. The City of North Mankato directs its available gambling proceeds to specific organizations serving the city and/or ISD 77. The City of Mankato directs its funds to ISD 77. Council member Frost agreed to check on the specifics of the Mankato ordinance.

Council member Freyberg recommended an inventory of charitable organizations be taken. Mayor Anderson suggested a joint Council educational summit giving

these organizations and opportunity to highlight their operations and describe their charitable work. Mayor Dehen concurred and suggested collaboration of effort towards common causes.

Action Step: Frost check on Mankato ordinance specifics. Request City staff to provide charitable gambling revenues/allocations for next meeting.

- f. Other
none

4. Old Business

- a. Waste water treatment bill

The outstanding water treatment concern raised by the city of North Mankato has been resolved. North Mankato paid the outstanding \$75,000 charge in December, 2010. The issue developed over elevated BOD rates in 2009 (20.09) relative to those in 2008 (16.00) that were unable to be sourced. There was a discrepancy between the testing results generated by the City of Mankato compared with independent testing performed on split samples at the City of North Mankato's request. However, those elevated BOD rates have now returned to rate similar to or less than those in 2008 (15.49).

Council member Frost assured the City of North Mankato that any future variations were open for discussion. He was pleased that the issue was resolved and wanted to ensure an ongoing amiable relationship.

5. Future Topics for Discussion

- a. CCTV

Cost effective utilization

- b. Transit costs

The City of North Mankato as submitted a letter to the City of Mankato that continued participation in the mass transit system may be compromised showed significant Cuts in a Local Government Aid (LGA) occur. Mayor Dehen indicated that this would not be a desirable choice, but significant budget cuts would require reviewing all services. He recognized that withdrawal would affect those most in need of public transportation, but noted that ridership is currently low relative to the dollars spent. Council member Frost recognized that there will be tough choices ahead for both cities.

c. Economic Development

Council member Freyberg noted that the City of North Mankato will be holding a workshop their Port Authority on April 4. He recommended coordination with the City of Mankato to share standards/parameters.

Action Step: Mayor Anderson to have his staff share Economic Development parameters with North Mankato

6. Public Comment

The meeting was opened briefly for public comments, but none were voiced by the attending public. The final minutes of this meeting will be posted on each City's website.

Action Step: Post final minutes on both City websites

7. Future meetings

Discussion was held future meetings were recommended to be held quarterly, preferably in the second month of each quarter, unless circumstances would require more frequent meetings. The Mayor Dehen recommended that all council members be invited for one Intergovernmental Committee meeting each year.

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, May 11, 2011 at 7:00 PM in the Mankato City Council Chambers.

Action Step: Schedule next meeting and post on respective calendars

8. Adjourned at 8:03

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Mark D. Dehen
Mayor of City of North Mankato