

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 16, 2011. 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 for the meeting, Mayor Dehen, Council Members Norland, Schindle, Freyberg and Steiner, City Administrator Sande, Finance Director Mork, City Clerk Gehrke, Attorney Kennedy, Engineer Malm and Planner Fischer.

Approval of Minutes

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to approve the minutes of the Council meeting of May 2, 2011. Vote on the motion: Norland, Schindle, Freyberg, Steiner and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Correspondence**Letter from Tim Hayes, Director of Library Services, Blue Earth County Library**

Mayor Dehen presented a letter from Tim Hayes, Director of Library Services for the Blue Earth County Library, which notified us they are evaluating bookmobile services in Blue Earth County. They are anticipating discontinuing stops at private daycares, nursing homes and schools and cutting the budget for bookmobile services from \$35,000 to \$10,000 for the 2012 Budget. They also want to discuss the possibility of implementing this modified schedule for the remainder of 2011 with a prorated reduction of charges. Administrator Sande reported a meeting has been scheduled with Blue Earth County Administrator Bob Meyer for Thursday, May 19, 2011 to review library services.

Thank-You Letter from Charlotte Giese, Commander of Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary

The Mayor presented a thank-you letter from Charlotte Giese, Commander of Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, for allowing the DAV to set up their clothing bin at the Riverbend Recycling Center.

**Open the Meeting to the Public for the First Time
City Center Partnership Annual Report**

Andy Willaert, Chair, and Eric Harriman, Executive Coordinator, of City Center Partnership appeared before the Council and presented the 2010 City Center Partnership Annual Report. Mr. Willaert thanked the City of North Mankato for the contribution to the City Center Partnership and thanked Michael Fischer for participating in the City Center Partnership. He reported contributions of over \$25,000 from 60 partners allowed for the hiring of a part-time Executive Coordinator. Executive Coordinator Harriman reviewed the activities of the City Center Partnership reporting the CCP played a lead role in recruiting support and communicating the importance of Greater Mankato being able to provide facilities to meet the current future needs of this growing regional center. CCP also participated in the First Greater Mankato Day at the Capitol. He also reported beautification of the City Center is a top priority of the CCP strategic plan and in the past year, the Aesthetics & Livability Committee launched three new programs to enhance the City Center. They include CityDesign Awards of Excellence, Adopt a Planter and CityArt Walking Sculpture Tour. Council Member Freyberg asked for clarification of the Alive After Five events. Mr. Harriman reported the Alive After Five events will be held on Thursday evenings in August this year and include music and food vendors. He reported the Trade & Traffic Committee is marketing the City Center through print advertisements and coupon books.

Staff Reports**City Administrator****Grant for Storybook Park**

Administrator Sande reported that on March 29, 2011 a grant request was submitted to the Mankato Area Foundation in the amount of \$15,000 to cover approximately one-half of the cost of the improvements for Storybook Park. The Foundation approved the grant request and we are in receipt of the grant funds. These funds come from the Fallenstein Bequest which is administered by the Mankato Area Foundation. Administrator Sande reported completion of the park improvements are expected during the month of June.

Charter Communication Rate Notification

Administrator Sande presented an announcement from Charter regarding rate changes that will begin with their June 2011 billing cycle. Charter notifies the City of any rate changes as required by the franchise agreement.

School and Conference

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to approve actual and necessary expenses for the following school and conference:

1. Field Training Officer Basic Certification, Richfield, October 24-28, for Police Officer.

Vote on the motion: Norland, Schindle, Freyberg, Steiner and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Finance Director

Finance Director Mork reported he has been to Sioux Falls and picked up several of the sculptures for the ArtWalk. While in Sioux Falls he observed the installation of their sculptures. Anyone interested in submitting an application next year for their sculpture to be considered should contact Shannon Robinson at Twin Rivers Center for the Arts.

City Attorney

Attorney Kennedy verified that asking prices have been established for the Budget Mart property on Belgrade Avenue (\$295,000) and the Budget Mart property on Commerce Drive (\$245,000). He reported that a sheriff's sale will be held for both properties. Administrator Sande reported the tanks have been removed from the Commerce Drive property but have not been removed from the Belgrade Avenue property.

Report from Council Members**Council Member Norland**

Council Member Norland reported she was pleased to hear about the fireworks collaboration. She noted while at the Recycling Center this past weekend, it was being heavily used and she heard good comments from residents.

Council Member Schindle

Council Member Schindle reported that at the All Seasons Arena Board meeting of May 27, 2011, the Board will discuss the Board expenditures authorization limit and have suggested it be increased from \$10,000 to \$50,000. The amount has not been increased since the original ASA Agreement was put in place in 1978. The Council requested Council Member Schindle to bring additional information back to the Council at a future Council meeting.

Council Member Freyberg

Council Member Freyberg reported on a recent trip to Grand Marais he found the *Explore Minnesota* flier at his stops at the State parks and was amazed that only a small ad paid for by Greater Mankato Growth advertising Mankato was in the flier. He stated the City has done a wonderful job on Caswell Park, an extensive trail system and is moving forward with the soccer fields. He believes this area should be promoted as a destination for bicyclers and bicycle competition. Tom Engstrom wants to meet regarding closing Judson Bottom Road for the River Ramble in October.

Report from the Mayor**Report from Intergovernmental Committee Meeting**

Mayor Dehen reported he attended the Intergovernmental Committee meeting on Wednesday, May 11, 2011. He reported the committee reviewed the Veterans Memorial Place project and reported the veterans groups have raised approximately \$75,000 for the project and the City of Mankato has agreed to in-kind services in the amount of \$4,088. Proposed North Mankato in-kind services include excavation - \$3,900, base work - \$2,000, drain tile - \$1,808 and erosion/sediment control - \$270 for a total of \$8,068. **Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to authorize in-kind services in the amount of \$8,068 for the Veterans Memorial Place. Vote on the motion: Norland, Schindle, Freyberg, Steiner and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

Mayor Dehen reported the Intergovernmental Committee discussed the closure of a portion of the Veterans Memorial Bridge for pedestrian viewing if the fireworks are held at Riverfront Park on July 4, 2011. **Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to authorize the closure of a portion of the Veterans Memorial Bridge for pedestrian viewing if the fireworks are held at Riverfront Park. Vote on the motion: Norland, Schindle, Freyberg, Steiner and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

The Intergovernmental Committee also discussed the Belgrade Blues Festival to be held on July 23, 2011. Service organizations wish to sell service blankets at the Festival and donate the proceeds to Veterans Memorial Place.

Mayor Dehen reported on the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Campaign which is a local effort to serve families of soldiers deployed within Nicollet, LeSueur and Blue Earth County.

Mayor Dehen reported the Intergovernmental Committee reviewed the most recent proposed redistricting areas as they relate to the Cities of Mankato and North Mankato. If accepted, the congressional redistricting maps would place North Mankato into the 2nd District and retain Mankato in the 1st District.

Mayor Dehen reported the next Intergovernmental Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 10, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in the North Mankato Council Chambers.

Mayor Dehen reported the Forsberg Field Dedication will be held on Saturday, May 21, 2011 at 11 a.m.

Mayor Dehen reported "Coffee with the Council" has been scheduled at the LorRay Deli Mart on Saturday, June 4, 2011 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Open the Meeting to the Public for the Second Time

Kim Spears, 916 South Avenue

Kim Spears, 916 South Avenue, appeared before the Council and asked if cable companies other than Charter could have a franchise in North Mankato. Administrator Sande reported that the Charter franchise is non-exclusive and other cable companies are operating in North Mankato.

Bills and Appropriations

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to approve all bills and appropriations in the amount of \$270,601.44. Vote on the motion: Norland, Schindle, Freyberg, Steiner and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk