

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 April 2, 2012. Mayor Dehen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. asking that everyone join in the Pledge of Allegiance and thanked Boy Scout Troop 29 for attending. The following were present for the meeting, Mayor Dehen, Council Members Schindle, Steiner and Norland, City Administrator Sande, Finance Director Thorne, City Clerk Gehrke, Engineer Malm and Planner Fischer. Absent: Council Member Freyberg and Attorney Kennedy.

Approval of Agenda

Council Member Schindle moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to approve the agenda with the addition of “Discussion of Intergovernmental Committee Minutes” under the Mayor. Vote on the motion: Schindle, Steiner, Norland and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to approve the minutes of the Council meeting of March 19, 2012. Vote on the motion: Steiner, Norland and Dehen, aye; Schindle abstained; no nays. Motion carried.

Correspondence

Thank-You Letter from CityArt Walking Sculpture Tour

The Mayor read a letter from the ArtWalk Committee thanking the City of North Mankato for the continued generosity and support of the CityArt Walking Sculpture Tour. They reported that 6 of the 25 sculptures in the 2011 tour have been sold, with 4 of them remaining in public places where the entire community will be able to enjoy them. They thanked the North Mankato City Council for their support of the purchase of the “Spirit of Energy” sculpture by the North Mankato Port Authority. The kickoff of CityArt 2012 will take place on May 19th with the installation of sculptures and an artists’ reception.

Public Hearing, 7 p.m. – Consider Approval of the 2012 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Action Plan

The Mayor opened the public hearing to consider the 2012 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Action Plan. A notice of the public hearing was published in the official newspaper. Planner Fischer presented the 2012-2013 Action Plan for the use of our annual Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. As proposed in the 2012-2013 CDBG Action Plan, the following are the recommended projects for Council consideration: 1) Financial assistance to move existing home at 238 Nicollet Avenue to 202 Christensen Street including rehabilitation, and 2) Financial assistance for rehabilitation of second story rental units within the 200 and 300 Blocks of Belgrade Avenue. He reported as a HUD Entitlement Community, the City receives annual CDBG resources. The HUD Federal Resources available for projects and programs identified in the 2012 Action Plan is \$58,591 with an additional \$46,714 of unused CDBG funds originally allocated in 2010 and 2011. The 2012-2013 Action Plan calls for use of \$95,000 for one of the two proposed projects with \$6,000 used for administrative costs. In response to a question from Kim Spears, 916 South Avenue, Administrator Sande reported the property at 202 Christenson Street is owned by the City and the property at 238 Nicollet Avenue would be used for future parking in the Central Business District. In response to Mr. Spear’s objection to private individuals benefitting from federal funds, Administrator Sande reported persons of LMI would live in the apartments and both of the proposed projects meet the criteria for the federal funds. Council Member Norland stated the federal government program’s underlying philosophy is to reduce the level of homelessness in the country. In

response to a request from Mr. Spears about the names of the property owners benefitting from federal funds for rehabilitation of their apartments, Administrator Sande reported the properties have not been identified, however, apartments above the American Legion, Bobby Joe's and the apartments in the building at the corner of Range and Belgrade would be candidates for rehabilitation. Council Member Schindle asked if the funds could be used for LMI persons with single-family homes in need of rehabilitation instead of using it for income property. Planner Fischer reported this would be an eligible use for the funds however residents must meet the income criteria, i.e., a family of four cannot make over \$55,000. In addition, it is necessary for each applicant to contribute one-half the cost of the rehabilitation. With no one else appearing before the Council, the Mayor closed this portion of the meeting. **Council Member Schindle moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to approve the 2012 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Action Plan with the addition of a third option allowing for LMI single-family homeowners to apply for funds to rehabilitate their homes and asked staff to bring specific projects to the Council for approval. Vote on the motion: Schindle, Steiner, Norland and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

Open the Meeting to the Public for the First Time

Barb Church, 102 E. Wheeler Avenue

Barb Church, 102 E. Wheeler Avenue, appeared before the Council and reviewed the history of her property and expressed her concern about the proposed 6-story Marigold 2.5 Project, the effect it will have on the 100 Block of Wheeler Avenue, the traffic issues and the lack of informational meetings held for the neighborhood regarding this project.

Kim Spears, 916 South Avenue

Kim Spears, 916 South Avenue, appeared before the Council and expressed his concern about the Marigold 2.5 project. He asked the cost of the model produced by I & S and if this six-story building was included in the model. Administrator Sande reported the cost of the model was approximately \$10,000 and the original model also included a six-story building. He also noted that I & S will be updating the model to include Marigold 2.5. Mr. Spears asked about the \$64,000 payment to Bolton & Menk. Administrator Sande reported the payment was for engineering services for two projects, 1) the extension of Howard/Carlson/CSAH 41 which is a City project and 2) the drainage facilities for Highway 14 which is a State project for which the City will be reimbursed. In response to Mr. Spear's question about the City's credit rating, Administrator Sande reported that Standard & Poor's Rating Services affirmed the City's AA credit rating.

Phil Henry, 1300 Noretta Drive

Phil Henry, 1300 Noretta Drive, appeared before the Council and expressed his concern about subsidizing housing for persons making over \$50,000 a year. Mayor Dehen reported that development of the Marigold property has been ongoing for several years, Envision 2020 endorses high-density housing in the Central Business District, and discussions will continue as the Marigold 2.5 Project moves forward.

Nicollet County Board Actions

Administrator Sande reported Nicollet County has decided to move forward with the ARMER project. He recommended the purchase of radios that are capable of both 700 and 800 bands. The federal government has not acted yet, but the 700 band may eventually become the standard. A total of \$64,500 of County funds will be used for upgrade of the City of North Mankato radios. Administrator Sande reported public works would remain on VHF.

Consent Agenda

Council Member Schindle moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes:

- A. Audio and Large Group Permit for Kellen 100th Birthday Party, Spring Lake Park, Saturday, June 2, from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.
- B. Res. No. 24-12 Declaring Costs to be Assessed for Municipal Charges – 514 Grant Avenue.
- C. Res. No. 25-12 Approving Donations/Contributions.
- D. Audio and Large Group Permit for American Heart Walk, Spring Lake Park, Saturday, August 18, from 6 a.m. to 12 noon.
- E. Parade Permit for American Heart Walk, Spring Lake Park, Saturday, August 18, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

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

Staff Reports

City Administrator

Res. No. 26-12 Advancing Municipal State Aid Street Funds

Administrator Sande presented Res. No. 26-12 requesting advance of Municipal State Aid Street funds in the amount of \$270,914.94. He reported the request is for reimbursement of engineering costs incurred on the Carlson/Howard/CSAH 41 project attributable to the City's share of the project. He reported Nicollet County has reimbursed the City for the share attributed to them.

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to adopt Resolution No. 26-12 Advancing Municipal State Aid Street Funds. Vote on the Resolution: Schindle, Steiner, Norland and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Schools and Conferences

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Schindle, to approve actual and necessary expenses for the following schools and conferences:

- A. 2012 MN Roadway Maintenance Training, St. Paul, April 10, for Street Superintendent.
- B. 2012 Minnesota Municipal Clerks Institute, Brooklyn Center, April 23-27, for Senior Records Clerk.

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

Finance Director

League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust Liability Coverage Waiver Form

Finance Director Thorne presented the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust waiver form for liability coverage. She reported that historically the City has chosen not to waive the tort liability limits that are established by statute. The City Administrator reported the Council not waiving the tort liability limits the liability of the City. **Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland to not waive the tort liability limits. Vote on the motion: Schindle, Steiner, Norland and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

Report from Council Members

Council Member Schindle

Council Member Schindle asked a Traffic & Safety Committee meeting be held to discuss future traffic in the Marigold 2.5 area with the engineers for the project attending this meeting.

Report from the Mayor

The Mayor reported that “Coffee with the Council” will be held from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 14, 2012 at Culvers on Commerce Drive.

Discussion of Intergovernmental Committee Meeting Minutes

Council Member Norland referenced under new business of the February Intergovernmental Committee Meeting minutes that a search would be done for grant opportunities under the MSA status to purchase tactical equipment. She stated that decisions such as purchasing tactical equipment are Council decisions and not ones that should be made by the Intergovernmental Committee. Mayor Dehen reported a search for grant opportunities is only being done to see if funds would be available for this purchase. Council Member Norland asked if North Mankato staff was notified of the joint traffic control assistance for the Christmas light display in Sibley Park. The Mayor reported the Mankato Christmas lights project is an endeavor by the Downtown Kiwanis and was presented as an informational item only.

Open the Meeting to the Public for the Second Time

Jim Whitlock, Business on Belgrade President

Jim Whitlock, Business on Belgrade President, appeared before the Council and reported that Blues on Belgrade would be held on Saturday, July 21, 2012. He also asked that a speed limit sign be placed in the 200 Block of Belgrade Avenue since cars coming off the bridge are often traveling at 40 mph. Administrator Sande reported he has asked Chief Boyer to put an emphasis on speed control in this area. He requested this item be placed on the next Traffic & Safety Committee meeting. Mr. Whitlock also reported that Business on Belgrade will be holding Oktoberfest on Belgrade Avenue on October 6th. Council Member Schindle expressed concern that with the new convenience store opening at 238 Belgrade Avenue, two days of their business would be affected with Blues on Belgrade and Oktoberfest. Mr. Whitlock reported they will work with the convenience store and would not impede traffic to their business. Council Member Schindle asked that Oktoberfest be placed on the next Traffic & Safety Committee meeting. The Mayor suggested Mr. Whitlock work with the Greater Mankato Bike Walk and River Ramble Committee so they notify people who will be coming in for the ride the next day of the Oktoberfest event.

Boy Scout Troop 29

The leader of Boy Scout Troop 29 thanked the Council for allowing them to attend the meeting.

Phil Henry, 1300 Noretta Drive

Phil Henry, 1300 Noretta Drive, reported a hornet’s nest is in the tree by the mailboxes.

Kim Spears, 916 South Avenue

Kim Spears, 916 South Avenue, reported alley access by the North Mankato Taylor Library is often blocked by parked cars.

Bills and Appropriations

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to approve all bills and appropriations in the amounts of \$139,649.20 and \$400,455.79. Vote on the motion: Schindle, Steiner, Norland and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk