

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 February 6, 2012. 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 Schindle, Freyberg, Steiner and Norland, City Administrator Sande, Finance Director Thorne, City Clerk Gehrke, Attorney Kennedy and Planner Fischer. Engineer Malm arrived at 7:40 p.m.

### **Approval of Agenda**

**Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to approve the agenda as presented. Vote on the motion: Schindle, Freyberg, Steiner, Norland and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

### **Approval of Minutes**

**Council Member Freyberg moved, seconded by Council Member Schindle, to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2012 Council meeting as amended and sent to the Council on January 23, 2012. Vote on the motion: Schindle, Freyberg, Steiner, Norland and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

### **Correspondence**

#### **Thank-You from Nicollet County Social Services**

Mayor Dehen read a letter from Nicollet County Social Services thanking the City for the use of the community room for training.

#### **Letter from Speaker of the House Kurt Zellers**

Mayor Dehen presented a letter from Speaker of the House Kurt Zellers thanking the Mayor for the input and support of the Governor's bonding proposal for Minnesota State Arena Improvements and Events Center Auditorium/Convention Expansion.

### **Open the Meeting to the Public for the First Time**

The Mayor opened the meeting to the public for the first time with no one appearing.

### **Nicollet County Board Actions**

Council Member Freyberg referenced the resolution adopted by the Nicollet County Board which calls for the Highway 14 Project in MnDOT's 20-year Plan and asked why Nicollet County is doing this resolution solo. Mayor Dehen reported that at the Highway 14 Partnership meeting it was suggested cities do resolutions separately to make an impact, which the City of North Mankato has done.

Council Member Freyberg referenced Nicollet County establishing a Water Management Task Force and suggested a representative from the City of North Mankato be a member of this Task Force. Mayor Dehen reported Commissioner Kolars represents this area and we could ask him about having a member on the Task Force.

### **Consent Agenda**

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

- A. Application for Parade Permit for Community Has Heart Walk/Awareness Event, Spring

- Lake Park, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 5, 2012.
- B. Audio and Large Group Permit for Community Day, Spring Lake Park, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 5, 2012.
  - C. Audio and Large Group Permit for Catholic Order of Foresters Family Picnic, Spring Lake Park, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, August 5, 2012.
  - D. Audio and Large Group Permit for March of Dimes Annual Walk, Wheeler Park, from 1-8 p.m. on Saturday, April 28, 2012.
  - E. Application for Parade Permit for March of Dimes Annual Walk, Wheeler Park, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 28, 2012.
  - F. Audio and Large Group Permit for Swing/Stueven Wedding, Spring Lake Park, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday, June 16, 2012.

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

### **Staff Reports**

#### **City Planner**

#### **Set Public Hearing for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 21, 2012 for One-Year Extension of Job Creation for Thin Film Technology Project (DEED Grant Agreement #CDAP-09-0099-H-FY10)**

Planner Fischer reported in 2010 Thin Film Technology received a \$250,000 loan from the State Department of Employment and Economic Development as part of a management buyout of their parent company. As part of the DEED loan agreement, Thin Film was required to retain and create jobs in 2011. He reported Thin Film is still in the process of hiring employees and they are requesting a one-year extension for job creation purposes. As part of the process, it is necessary to set a public hearing for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 12, 2012. Administrator Sande noted the loan is paid back to the City with 80 percent sent to DEED and the City retaining 20 percent. **Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to set a public hearing for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 21, 2012 to consider a one-year extension for job creation for Thin Film Technology Project (DEED Grant Agreement #CDAP-09-0099-H-FY10). Vote on the motion: Schindle, Freyberg, Steiner, Norland and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

#### **Carbon Baseline Assessment**

Planner Fischer presented a proposed agreement among the City of North Mankato, the City of Mankato and the Minnesota Retiree Environmental Technical Assistance Program (RETAP) to prepare Carbon Baseline Assessments for each City. He reported City staff has had ongoing coordination with the Envision 2020 Energy Conservation Task Force in completing a Carbon Baseline Assessment for the North Mankato and Mankato area. The RETAP Program has offered 40 hours of no-cost technical assistance on an as-needed basis to assist the Energy Conservation Task Force in completing the Carbon Baseline Assessment. Both City staffs will be collecting data through the utility companies and RETAP will prepare the report which can serve as a tool for the City's efforts to become more sustainable. **Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to approve the Carbon Baseline Assessment Agreement. Vote on the motion: Schindle, Freyberg, Steiner, Norland and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

#### **2011 Building Permit Report**

Planner Fischer presented the 2011 Building Permit Report stating the total dollar value for building permits was a record \$35,839,836. Total number of permits was 1,750 which included 15 single-family homes, 4 townhomes, 2 apartment buildings (10 units), 4 garages, 55 industrial/

commercial, 58 other and 1,612 residential remodeling. In response to a question, he reported the “other” category included permits for signs, schools, churches and municipal buildings.

### **City Administrator 2011 Police Report**

Police Chief Boyer appeared before the Council and presented the Police Department 2011 Year-End Report stating the format of the report has changed and includes more detailed information on statistics for personal, property and other crimes, juvenile status, traffic stops and neighborhood support. Chief Boyer reported over 20 individuals were arrested for property crimes with the majority of theft/burglary incidents a result of valuables being clearly visible in unlocked vehicles. He encouraged residents to keep their vehicles, garages and homes locked. He thanked the North Mankato Police Reserves for the many hours they volunteered and the excellent job they did in 2011.

### **HickoryTech Notice of Rate Increase**

Administrator Sande presented a letter from HickoryTech notifying the City of a rate increase for Digital TV service effective March 1, 2012. He reported they are required by the Franchise Ordinance to notify the City of any proposed rate increases.

### **Schools and Conferences**

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

1. SCC Regional State Fire School, North Mankato, March 3-4 for 34 Firefighters.
2. MSFCA Fire Officers School, Alexandria, February 11-12 for 2 Fire Department Officers.
3. Minnesota State Fire Department Association Conference and School, Alexandria, June 14-17 for 6 Firefighters and 1 Relief Association Officer.
4. Minnesota Fire Chiefs Conference and School, Duluth, October 17-20 for 2 to 3 Fire Officers.
5. 2012 MCFOA Conference, St. Cloud, March 20-23 for City Clerk and Deputy City Clerk.
6. Midwestern Electrical Seminar, Mankato, March 16, for Electrician.
7. LMC Loss Control Workshop, Brooklyn Park, April 11, for Police Chief.
8. First Responder Refresher, North Mankato, February 29 and March 7 for 13 Patrol Officers.

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

### **Finance Director**

#### **Community Room Usage Report**

Finance Director Thorne presented the Community Room Usage Report for 2011 reporting a total of 591 uses: 164 for the Municipal Building, 170 for the Police Annex and 247 for the Fire Station #2 Community Room. The Finance Director reported the rate was changed from \$60 to \$80 for community room rental effective January 1, 2012.

#### **Res. No. 11-12 Approving Donations/Contributions**

Finance Director Thorne presented Resolution No. 11-12 for donations/contributions totaling \$1,000; \$500.00 from Thomas F. and Sandra K. Kwolek and a matching grant of \$500.00 from Dow

Chemical Company Foundation. She reported the donations are for the North Mankato Taylor Library. **Council Member Schindle moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to adopt Resolution No. 11-12 Approving Donations/Contributions. Vote on the Resolution: Schindle, Freyberg, Steiner, Norland and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

### **City Engineer**

#### **Northridge Ravine ATP Report**

Administrator Sande gave background information on the Northridge Ravine ATP Application reporting an application has been presented to the ATP on several occasions for the Northridge Ravine. He reported it is speculative if the application would be approved but if it was, the Council could have a more thorough discussion at that time about the design issues. Engineer Malm reported he has spoken to Mr. Scheidel about the transportation relationship of this application. The subcommittee will be meeting on February 15, 2012 in St. James to consider the applications. Engineer Malm will be in attendance to answer any questions about the transportation relationship of this application and why we feel it deserves federal funding for MnDOT's contribution to the problem in the Northridge Ravine.

### **Report from Council Members**

#### **Council Member Norland**

Council Member Norland reported the League of Minnesota Cities Experienced Leaders Conference she attended on January 27-28, 2012 was excellent. She noted there were specific items the Council could do to strengthen the planning process and the action process. She will be compiling information from the conference for the other Council Members.

#### **Council Member Freyberg**

Council Member Freyberg reported he forwarded information regarding the Mankato Transit Redesign Study to Mayor Dehen, Administrator Sande and Mark Anderson at the City of Mankato. He expressed his concern that the study focuses more on expanded service both in routes and hours of operation versus efficiencies in service. He reported it was his understanding that in the Transit Redesign Study they would be looking at efficiencies and is the reason he agreed to be a member of the committee. He referenced the information gathered from 1990-2010 which suggests that Minnesota's population is increasing; however, the population in Southern and Western Minnesota is diminishing and most communities surrounding the Mankato/North Mankato region are underperforming. He stated while the study focuses on Minnesota in general terms, he didn't find anything that pertains directly to Mankato or North Mankato efficiencies or numbers. He stated another concern was the bullet point stating that if decreases in state and federal funding for transit necessitates additional reductions, MnDOT will reduce funding allocation to systems that meet or exceed performance standards and questioned if rewarding instead of reduction would be more in line with expanded services. Because of these concerns, he is not certain he will continue to serve on the Transit Redesign Steering Committee. In response to who participated in the funding of the study, Administrator Sande reported he believes the study was funded by MnDOT. The future of federal funding and the obligation of providing transportation to those individuals who can afford transportation was discussed. Mayor Dehen referenced articles in the *Star Tribune* regarding the same issue with the Met Council. At the Highway 14 Partnership meeting, the committee also expressed concerns about expanding mass transit in this tight economy. The Mayor agreed that the report focuses on expanding services instead of focusing on efficiencies. The Mayor stated it is a good study but is not sure the numbers are applicable to Mankato/North Mankato since the population outside of Mankato/North Mankato is going down.

**Report from Mayor  
Community Video Program**

Mayor Dehen reported this item was tabled at the last Council meeting in order to gather more information. Staff contacted the Cities of Robbinsdale and Champlin regarding their experiences with CGI Communications Community Video Program. Council Member Schindle asked if area businesses would also be allowed to link their videos to the North Mankato website or if advertising would be limited to North Mankato businesses. Attorney Kennedy stated that a definition of "local business" would need to be addressed, i.e. is HickoryTech a local business since they provide services in North Mankato or are they a Mankato business because their office is located in Mankato. Other concerns are whether a business would feel pressured to buy advertising in order to be linked to the City website and the perception that a business would get special treatment from the City if their business is on the website. Council Member Freyberg questioned whether we could restrict advertising to North Mankato businesses. He also stated he found advertising on websites to be very distracting. Council Member Norland reported she generally likes the idea of businesses advertising on the City's website but good questions were raised. Mayor Dehen reported CGI is trying to schedule their time for producing the video and they can also incorporate professional videos. Administrator Sande reported if it is the wish of the Council to limit advertising to North Mankato businesses, staff will contact CGI and ask if we can impose some sort of limitation about who was contacted for the advertising or who receives preferential placement of the ads.

**Intergovernmental Committee Meeting**

The Mayor announced the Intergovernmental Committee Meeting with Mankato will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 8, 2012 in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building. Law enforcement officials were invited to attend this meeting to discuss coordination of security at the air show. Administrator Sande reported the North Mankato Electric Flyers are coordinating with the air show to have a model air show prior to the air show and will invite a member of the Blue Angels to the model air show.

**Coffee with the Council**

The Mayor reported "Coffee with the Council" will be held from 10-11 a.m. on Saturday, February 11, 2012 at Subway on Commerce Drive.

**Open the Meeting to the Public for the Second Time**

The Mayor opened the meeting to the public for the second time with no one appearing.

**Bills and Appropriations**

Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to approve all bills and appropriations in the amounts of \$946,148.41 and \$134,613.56. Vote on the motion: Schindle, Freyberg, Steiner, Norland and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m. on a motion by Council Member Steiner, seconded by Council Member Norland. Vote on the motion: Schindle, Freyberg, Steiner, Norland and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.

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Mayor

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City Clerk