

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 January 3, 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 Steiner, Norland, Schindle and Freyberg, City Administrator Sande, Finance Director Thorne, City Clerk Gehrke, Engineer Malm, Attorney Kennedy and Planner Fischer.

Approval of Agenda

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Schindle, to approve the agenda as presented.

Approval of Minutes

Council Member Freyberg moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to approve the minutes of the Council meeting of December 19, 2011. Vote on the motion: Steiner, Norland, Schindle, Freyberg and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Correspondence

Thank-You Letter from LEEP

Mayor Dehen read a letter from LEEP thanking the City for the generous gift which they will use to purchase supplies for the Special Olympic Athletes.

Thank-You Letter from Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys

The Mayor read a letter from the Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys thanking the City for the generous donation for the Girl Scouts North Mankato Service Unit.

Open the Meeting to the Public for the First Time

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

Staff Reports

City Administrator

Res. No. 01-12 Designating Official Newspaper

Administrator Sande presented Resolution No. 01-12 designating an official newspaper for the City of North Mankato for 2012 legal announcements and publications. Where permitted, announcements and publications will be placed on the City's web site. **Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to adopt Resolution No. 01-12 Designating *The Mankato Free Press* as the official newspaper for the City of North Mankato. Vote on the Resolution: Steiner, Norland, Schindle, Freyberg and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

Res. No. 02-12 Designating Depositories for City of North Mankato

Council Member Schindle moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to adopt Resolution No. 02-12 designating the following banks as City depositories: Frandsen Bank & Trust, US Bank, Wells Fargo, First National Bank Minnesota, Pioneer Bank, Voyager Bank, Community Bank of Vernon Center, Minnstar Bank NA, TCF Bank FSB, Wells Federal Bank FSB, Northern Star Bank and United Prairie Bank. Vote on the Resolution: Steiner, Norland, Schindle, Freyberg and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Res. No. 03-12 Setting Fees and Charges

Administrator Sande presented a recommendation for fees for certain municipal services effective January 1, 2012. He reported that most fees have increased by 10 percent and provided a side-by-side comparison of fees showing the increases as discussed during the budget process. He reported the building permit fees are in line with the City of Mankato's building permit fees. **Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Schindle, to adopt Resolution No. 03-12 Setting Fees and Charges. Vote on the Resolution: Steiner, Norland, Schindle, Freyberg and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

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. 17th Annual Tactical Training Conference, Alexandria, March 4-6, for three Patrol Officers.

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

ISO Rating for North Mankato Fire Department

Fire Chief Tim Pohlman appeared before the Council and reported he received notification that effective March 1, 2012 the ISO Rating for the North Mankato Fire Department has been upgraded from Class 5 to Class 4. Chief Pohlman reported he has been working on the water system analysis with the Water Department and this is part of the reason for the rating upgrade.

Finance Director**Property/Casualty Insurance Dividend**

Finance Director Thorne reported the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust notified the City of a property/casualty insurance dividend in the amount of \$40,053 for 2011 from a total 2011 premium of \$143,611. A historical recap of the premiums paid and dividends received for the period 2002-2012 was presented.

Report from Council Members**Council Member Norland**

Council Member Norland thanked the City for the wonderful holiday decorations. Administrator Sande noted that the Civic & Commerce Association has made the holiday decorations possible through their many donations over the years.

Council Member Schindle

Council Member Schindle asked if staff had an opportunity to look at the snowplowing on Bennett Street. Administrator Sande reported the Public Works Director would be forwarding a memo to the Council shortly.

Council Member Freyberg

Council Member Freyberg asked who was in charge of pruning boulevard trees. He reported he received complaints about the tree trimming that took place on the property from 2161 to 2179 Eagle Ridge Drive. He took pictures of the trimming of boulevard trees and stated

the trimming was unnecessary and the trees were butchered. He reported the pruning was so inappropriate and he believes the employees need some training. Administrator Sande reported he was unaware of the tree trimming going on and believed trees were going to be removed in the ponds and wetlands. The Administrator reported he asked the Public Works Director to cease and desist any tree trimming until this matter can be resolved. Discussion was held regarding the aggressive tree trimming done by Xcel in their easements including removal of trees completely to be replaced by low-growing trees.

Report from Mayor

Mayor Dehen reported he received an invitation from Susan Weinberger to a forum discussing ways the church could help the community. The forum is to be held from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, January 8, 2012 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church on Second Street. He asked if any Council Members would be able to attend the forum. Mayor Dehen will be attending part of the forum. Council Member Norland requested that any discussion items be sent to her and she will compile a list of ways the church could help the community.

The Mayor reported that “Coffee with the Council” will be held from 10-11 a.m. on Saturday, January 14, 2012 at the Circle Inn, 232 Belgrade Avenue.

**Open the Meeting to the Public for the Second Time
Mark Haack, 713 Bennett Street**

Mark Haack, 713 Bennett Street, appeared before the Council and requested a copy of the memo regarding the snowplowing on Bennett Street. He also reported that trees have been planted at the corner of Garfield Avenue and Lake Street that are not in a very good spot and when grown will obstruct the view at this corner.

Bills and Appropriations

Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to approve all bills and appropriations in the amounts of \$290,381.22 and \$229,580.46. Vote on the motion: Steiner, Norland, Schindle, Freyberg and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk