

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 7, 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, Attorney Kennedy, Engineer Malm and Planner Fischer.

**Approval of Agenda**

**Council Member Freyberg moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to approve the agenda as presented. Vote on the motion: Steiner, Norland, Schindle, Freyberg 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 April 16, 2012. Vote on the motion: Steiner, Norland, Schindle, Freyberg and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

**Correspondence****Natural Pathways Thank-You**

Mayor Dehen read a letter from Natural Pathways thanking the City for the help they provided in getting their business up and running at 229 Belgrade Avenue. The Mayor also reported that "Coffee with the Council" will be held at Natural Pathways from 10-11 a.m. on Saturday, May 12, 2012.

**Open the Meeting to the Public for the First Time****Darcy Wennes, Belle House, LLC**

Darcy Wennes, Belle House, LLC, appeared before the Council and presented background information regarding the sober house that he will be opening on June 1, 2012, at 2107 North Ridge Drive. He reported an open house will be held from 1-4 p.m. on May 18, 2012. Dale Plemmons, 2112 North Ridge Drive, appeared before the Council and expressed concern regarding the sober house. Sue Serbes, Nicollet County Social Services, appeared before the Council and reported she has been involved with Mr. Wennes on the planning of Belle House and stated that rules and policies are in place for the women living in the sober house, referrals come from the County and all women will have completed treatment programs and will be working toward returning to school, obtaining jobs and living on their own. Council Member Norland suggested concerned neighbors attend the open house and sit down with Mr. Wennes and discuss their concerns.

**Striping on LorRay Drive**

Ron Schweitzer, 2145 LorRay Drive, Debra Petterson 2120 LorRay Drive, and Justin Jackson, owner of the rental property at 2124 and 2126 LorRay Drive, appeared before the Council and spoke of their concerns regarding the recent striping on LorRay Drive. Engineer Malm reported this is an MSA street which requires a left-turn lane and the plans submitted to MnDOT do not allow for on-street parking. Administrator Sande presented alternate off-street parking for residents in this area including an agreement with Monarch Meadows for residents to park in their parking lot. Mayor Dehen requested this item be discussed at a future Traffic & Safety Committee meeting.

**Barb Church, 102 E. Wheeler Avenue**

Barb Church, 102 E. Wheeler Avenue, appeared before the Council to again state her concerns regarding the Marigold 2.5 Project as it affects Wheeler Avenue. She asked about the upcoming joint Port Authority/City Council meeting. Mayor Dehen reported it would be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, May 14, 2012. She asked that Planner Fischer provide the traffic study for this area, that Administrator Sande give a reflective overview of why the south side of Wheeler is part of the Belgrade development, provide the cost of the Marigold site including who is paying the assessments for the repair of Wheeler Avenue due to the construction in this area, and how this project meshes with the recent I & S report completed for the Central Business District. She asked Council Member Steiner to be ready to explain why this project is good for the neighborhood. She stated the Council has a fiduciary responsibility to give this project careful consideration.

**Consent Agenda**

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

- A. Audio and Large Group Permit for Holy Rosary Mass and Meal, Wheeler Park, Sunday, September 9, 2012 from 6 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- B. Audio and Large Group Permit for Mankato Eagles Club Picnic, Wheeler Park, Sunday, July 15, 2012 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- C. Audio and Large Group Permit for South Central Workforce Council Staff Training, Wheeler Park, Thursday, August 16, 2012 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- D. Parade Permit for Team Lace 'Em Up with Susan G. Komen, Benson Park, Saturday, June 23, from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- E. Resolution No. 28-12 Waiving Waiting Period for Exemption from Lawful Gambling License for Knights of Columbus to Conduct Bingo on July 5-8, 2012 at Wheeler Park, 402 Page Avenue.
- F. Resolution No. 29-12 Approving Donations/Contributions.

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

**City Administrator****Revised 2012 Street Sealcoat List**

Administrator Sande presented the revised 2012 Street Sealcoat list adding McKinley Avenue from Center Street to Range Street, Monroe Avenue from Center Street to Range Street and Marvin Boulevard to replace Howard Drive from Lookout Drive to LorRay Drive, which was removed because of the CSAH 41/Carlson project detour. Howard Drive from Lookout Drive to LorRay Drive will be placed on the 2013 Sealcoat list.

**Caswell Park Advertising**

Administrator Sande presented a quote in the total amount of \$17,105 for the equipment needed to implement the digital advertising at Caswell Park. The quote includes units for City Hall and the Best Western, which will serve as the host hotel for all major tournaments. He reported that currently two businesses have committed to 3-year agreements for advertising at Caswell Park at \$1,000 each per year and anticipates additional sales after installation. Council Member Freyberg stated his agreement with the digital advertising concept noting this is what people are looking for and it is the modern approach to advertising. **Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member**

**Steiner, to approve the purchase of the advertising equipment in the amount of \$17,105. Vote on the motion: Steiner, Norland, Schindle, Freyberg and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

### **2012 Workers' Compensation Dividend**

Administrator Sande presented background information on the workers compensation dividends received from the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust. The 2011 deposit premium amounted to \$99,691 and the dividend was \$17,826 or approximately 17.9 percent of the total premium. He reported the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust continues to provide very cost-effective workers' compensation coverage.

### **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. Getting to Know the New GAAFR, Internet Training, July 11, 2012 for Finance Director.

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

### **City Clerk**

#### **Application for On-Sale Intoxicating Liquor, Sunday On-Sale Liquor, Off-Sale Intoxicating Liquor, Soft Drink and Mechanical Amusement Device Licenses for NaKato Bar & Grill, 253 Belgrade Avenue**

Clerk Gehrke presented an application for on-sale intoxicating liquor, Sunday on-sale liquor, off-sale intoxicating liquor, soft drink and mechanical amusement device licenses for Nakato Bar & Grill. She reported this is the former Bobby Joe's at 253 Belgrade Avenue. This property has been sold and the tentative date to change the name to the Nakato Bar & Grill is June 1, 2012. The Clerk reported all necessary paperwork has been received and the background investigation has been completed. Mayor Dehen welcomed the Downs' to North Mankato and thanked them for bringing back the Nakato Bar & Grill. **Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to approve the application for on-sale intoxicating liquor, Sunday on-sale liquor, off-sale intoxicating liquor, soft drink and mechanical amusement device licenses for Nakato Bar & Grill, 253 Belgrade Avenue. Vote on the motion: Steiner, Norland, Schindle, Freyberg and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

### **City Engineer**

#### **Construction Schedule for Carlson/41**

Engineer Malm presented the construction schedule for Carlson/41. He reported construction will begin in mid-May and should be completed by the first week of September. In response to a question, he reported the detour for this project will begin in approximately two weeks.

### **Report from Council Members**

#### **Council Member Norland**

Council Member Norland stated that one of the items discussed by the Park & Green Spaces Committee was sustainability. With that in mind, she encouraged all residents to think about the use of rain barrels and not bagging their clippings after mowing.

**Council Member Schindle****Minutes of Traffic & Safety Committee Meeting of April 20, 2012**

Council Member Schindle reported the Traffic & Safety Committee met on April 20, 2012 to review traffic speed control on Veterans Bridge and the 200 Block of Belgrade Avenue, review traffic generation resulting from the Marigold 2.5 Project and review the proposed street closures for the 2012 Belgrade Blues Fest and Oktoberfest events. The Traffic & Safety Committee recommended the purchase and installation of a permanent radar speed sign in a location east of the 200 Block of Belgrade Avenue to reduce westbound traffic. The Traffic & Safety Committee does not believe there is any expected capacity or safety issue associated with the Marigold 2.5 Project but will monitor traffic issues in the future. The Traffic & Safety Committee recommended the proposed street closure and temporary signing for the upcoming events on Belgrade Avenue. The Blues on Belgrade Committee reported the new owners of the convenience store on Belgrade Avenue are excited about the festivals. **Council Member Schindle moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to authorize the purchase and installation of a permanent radar speed sign in a location east of the 200 Block of Belgrade Avenue. Vote on the motion: Steiner, Norland, Schindle, Freyberg and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

**Council Member Schindle moved, seconded by Council Member Norland to authorize the street closure and temporary signing for the Belgrade Blues Festival on July 21, 2012 and Oktoberfest on October 6, 2012 as recommended by the Traffic & Safety Committee. Vote on the motion: Steiner, Norland, Schindle, Freyberg and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

**Report from the Mayor****Mankato River Ramble & Oktoberfest:Bier on Belgrade**

Mayor Dehen asked Jim Whitlock, President of Business on Belgrade to speak about the upcoming Mankato River Ramble and Oktoberfest:Bier on Belgrade. Mr. Whitlock reported the committees are working together on the advertising for the two events in an effort to bring more people into the cities. Oktoberfest:Bier on Belgrade will be held on Saturday, October 6, 2012 and the Mankato River Ramble will be held on Sunday, October 7, 2012.

**Trails Linking Veterans' Memorials**

The Mayor reported he met with the CVB and Mankato Mayor Anderson regarding the trails linking all veterans' memorials to encourage residents and guests to visit the veterans' memorials in the two cities and to use the trails for events such as 5K races.

**Talent Symposium**

Mayor Dehen reported he attended the Greater Mankato Talent Symposium held on Wednesday, May 2, 2012. The purpose of the talent symposium was to help the region capitalize on talent by matching our talent to our current and future business needs as a marketing strategy to keep graduates in the area.

**“Coffee with the Council”**

Mayor Dehen reported “Coffee with the Council” would be held from 10-11 a.m. on Saturday, May 12, 2012 at Natural Pathways, 229 Belgrade Avenue. The June “Coffee with the Council” will be held from 12 noon to 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 16, 2012 at the Mankato Brewery, 1119 Center Street. A tour of the brewery will be conducted after “Coffee with the Council.”

**Highway 14 Meeting**

The Mayor reported Minnesota Department of Transportation Commissioner Thomas Sorel will be visiting the Mankato MnDOT headquarters on Monday, May 14, 2012 from 2-6 p.m. for discussion regarding Highway 14.

**Set Date and Time for Closed Council Meeting**

**Council Member Schindle moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to set a Closed Council Meeting for 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 8, 2012, for two agenda items: 1) Security Briefing, and 2) LELS Police Union Contract. Vote on the motion: Steiner, Norland, Schindle, Freyberg and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.** (This meeting date and time was changed to 6 p.m. on Monday, May 14, 2012 in order to meet the publication requirements.)

**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 about the \$17,000 payment for Public Access. He also stated he would welcome Belle House as a neighbor and that the striping of LorRay Drive should be reconsidered. In response to a question, Administrator Sande reported that 17 lots in the North Gate Subdivision are on the tax forfeiture sale.

**Barb Sorenson, 2104 North Ridge Drive**

Barb Sorenson, 2104 North Ridge Drive, appeared before the Council and stated she just learned about the sober house a week ago. Council Member Norland encouraged her to attend the open house on May 18, 2012.

**Bills and Appropriations**

Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Schindle, to approve all bills and appropriations in the amounts of \$9,050.17 and \$491,989.77. Vote on the motion: Steiner, Norland, Schindle, Freyberg and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.

**Announcement of City Administrator's Retirement**

City Administrator Wendell Sande announced his intent to retire as of May 31, 2012. He stated the City has a tremendous group of employees and he is proud of the projects completed since he was appointed City Administrator on March 1, 1996, including the restoration of Spring Lake and construction of the Thompson Pier by City employees, Caswell Park Fields 5 and 6, the soccer complex, the purchase and beginning development of Benson Park, Centennial Park, Storybook Park and the many neighborhood parks, construction of the Recycling Center, expansion of Water Plant No. 2, the new water tower, Police Annex, Fire Station No. 2, North Mankato Taylor Library, Carlson Drive Public Works building, the many new businesses and job creation in the industrial park, the downtown redevelopment, 4-lane extension of Highway 14 and the 14/41 interchange and the sales tax referendum. He stated the most gratifying thing is that North Mankato is a clean, safe place to live. Mayor Dehen expressed his appreciation of the work accomplished by Wendell Sande during his tenure as City Administrator and stated that Administrator Sande would be missed.

Port Authority President Bob Knutson congratulated Administrator Sande on a job really well done. He stated that Administrator Sande has had the most success in economic development on both sides of the river and the bonding consultants are amazed at the development in North Mankato.

Library Director Lucy Lowry appeared on behalf of the department heads and staff and read a statement as follows: "While we were stunned at the announcement of Wendell's retirement, we want

him to know that we hold him in the highest regard and wish him the best of luck in his new endeavors. He has taught all of us so much and has cared about each individual employee while making sure that things are accomplished in a timely manner. He is the captain of the sports team that everyone wants to play their best for. We will all miss him and the City of North Mankato will be a lesser place without him at the helm.

That being said, over the years, Wendell has formed an amazing team of department heads and other individuals who are not only knowledgeable about the work of their departments, but are loyal to, and proud of, working for the City of North Mankato. We all share a vision for the future of North Mankato and will continue to work together to see North Mankato become an even better place to live.”

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m. on a motion by Council Member Norland, seconded by Council Member Schindle. Vote on the motion: Steiner, Norland, Schindle, Freyberg and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.

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Mayor

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City Clerk