

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 March 4, 2013. Mayor Dehen introduced the new City Administrator, John Harrenstein. The Mayor 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, Freyberg and Spears, City Administrator Harrenstein, Finance Director Thorne, City Clerk Gehrke, Attorney Kennedy, Engineer Malm and Planner Fischer.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Freyberg, to approve the minutes of the Council meeting of February 19, 2013. Vote on the motion: Steiner, Norland, Freyberg, Spears and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Correspondence

Letters from Cliff Court Residents

Mayor Dehen referenced letters received from Cliff Court residents regarding the Cliff Court reconstruction project.

2013 City of Excellence Awards

The Mayor reported he has received an application for the League of Minnesota Cities 2013 City of Excellence Awards.

Public Hearing, 7 p.m. – Project No. 13-01ABCDEF, Cliff Court Reconstruction

Engineer Malm reported Engineer Sarff gave a PowerPoint presentation for the reconstruction of Cliff Court and a feasibility report was presented and accepted by the Council at the February 4, 2013 Council meeting. An improvement hearing was set for the March 4, 2013 Council meeting. He reported a neighborhood informational meeting was held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, February 28, 2013, which included the PowerPoint presentation and additional information regarding access and garbage collection during the construction. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Free Press* and notice was sent to all affected property owners. The Mayor opened the hearing to the public for comment.

Bruce Johnson, 113 Cliff Court

Bruce Johnson, 113 Cliff Court, appeared before the Council and reported he has lived at this address for 37 years and everything seems to work fine with the exception of the numerous water main breaks. He asked if the water main could be updated and the balance of the street left alone. He also stated his objection to installing sidewalks in this area reporting the majority of the residents in the neighborhood do not want sidewalks and a fair amount of trees would be lost with the installation of the sidewalks changing the look and feel of the neighborhood.

Curt and Diane Anderson, 225 Allan Avenue

Curt and Diane Anderson, 225 Allan Avenue, appeared before the Council and expressed their concern that only a 28' corner of their property abuts Cliff Court yet the proposed assessment roll reflects an assessment of nearly \$4,000 for their property. Mr. Anderson reported that their driveway is located on Allan Avenue. He asked the Council to consider removing his property from the Cliff Court Reconstruction Assessment roll.

Sandra Jaeger, 105 Cliff Court

Sandra Jaeger, 105 Cliff Court, appeared before the Council asking for their reconsideration of the installation of sidewalks on the Cliff Court Reconstruction Project. She stated she believes the time and money saved by removing the sidewalks could be saved for other projects.

Michael Danberry, 110 Cliff Court

Michael Danberry, 110 Cliff Court, appeared before the Council and thanked them for considering the Cliff Court Reconstruction Project. He reported his only concern is the installation of the sidewalk and the number of trees that would be removed. He asked the Council to please consider removing the sidewalks from this project.

David Allan, 114 Cliff Court

David Allan, 114 Cliff Court, appeared before the Council and stated Cliff Court is the quietest street in North Mankato and asked if it made sense to put a sidewalk on such a short street. He stated the beauty of the street will be destroyed with the removal of the trees.

Maralyn Flinger, 121 Cliff Court

Maralyn Flinger, 121 Cliff Court, appeared before the Council stating Cliff Court is a wonderful place to live. She expressed her concern regarding the holes that are appearing in the ravine and stated there is not enough drainage in this area.

With no one else appearing before the Council, the Mayor closed this portion of the meeting.

Scott Thompson, Minnesota Department of Transportation – Roundabout Discussion

Scott Thompson, Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), appeared before the Council and gave a PowerPoint presentation on roundabouts specifically for use at the north intersection of Highway 14 and Lookout Drive. Mr. Thompson referenced the 2010 Bolton & Menk Traffic Study and the 2011 MnDOT Intersection Control Evaluation (ICE) for this area. The 2010 Bolton & Menk Traffic Study reported and the MnDOT 2011 ICE Study confirmed the north ramps (westbound) met volume requirements for signals. However, the ICE Study determined that a signal wouldn't be the best solution. He reviewed the signal versus roundabout pros and cons reporting the cost for the signal would be approximately \$300,000 and the cost of a roundabout would be \$1 million. Some discussion was held about the property necessary to accommodate a roundabout and whether an easement or property acquisition would be necessary. Engineer Malm reported the cost of the roundabout also includes pavement repair and is not just an intersection project. Mr. Thompson reported a consensus would need to be reached between the City of North Mankato and MnDOT regarding which traffic controls will be installed in this area. If an agreement is reached to build a roundabout, it will be necessary for the City to adopt a resolution agreeing to participate with MnDOT 50/50 in the cost of a roundabout, determine when to build the roundabout and to continue the public education campaign regarding the use of roundabouts. Mr. Thompson reported one of the first items

that need to be completed is approval from the Council regarding support of the application for federal funding for this project in 2017 which will add another funding source for the project. He also noted that MnDOT is looking for a soft commitment for this improvement to begin in 2016 or 2017 and will bring a Resolution of Intent to Support the Project before the Council in the near future. **Council Member Freyberg moved, seconded by Council Member Norland to support submission of the application for federal funding for this project. Vote on the motion: Steiner, Norland, Freyberg, Spears and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

Open the Meeting to the Public for the First Time

Barbara Church, 102 E. Wheeler Avenue

Barbara Church, 102 E. Wheeler Avenue, appeared before the Council and welcomed the new City Administrator. She thanked the Mayor for his work on the noise level of Riverfront Drive. She also asked when the development agreement for the Marigold Project became void. Ms. Church reported that she received a notice that it was necessary to license her dogs. She asked how many dog licenses have been issued in the past two years, 2011 and 2012, and how many letters went out to residents. Staff will obtain this information for Ms. Church. She also stated her concern about the City Code regarding dogs and will speak of this at another time.

Sharon Schaller, Sharon's Craft-N-Floral Center, 241 Belgrade Avenue

Sharon Schaller, Sharon's Craft-N-Floral Center, 241 Belgrade Avenue, appeared before the Council and stated her concern about roundabouts. She reported she acts as a tour guide and has noted that tour bus drivers avoid roundabouts but with the large number of roundabouts, it is getting harder to avoid them.

Nicollet County Board Actions

The Mayor reported the chip spreader has been jointly purchased by Nicollet County and the City of North Mankato and should be available for use when needed.

Consent Agenda

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

- A. Application for Final Stretch, Inc. to hold North Mankato Triathlon, Sunday, June 30, 2013, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- B. Application for Parade Permit for Golden Heart 5K Fun Run & Kids Run, Benson Park, Saturday, May 11, 2013 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- C. Audio and Large Group Permit for Golden Heart 5K Fun Run & Kids Run, Benson Park, Saturday, May 11, 2013, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- D. Audio and Large Group Permit for Carlson Craft Company Picnic, Spring Lake Park, Sunday, September 22, 2013 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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

Staff Reports**City Administrator****Schools and Conferences**

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

1. AWWA Metro School, Bloomington, April 2-4 for 1 Water Serviceman.
2. Minnesota Municipal Clerks Institute, Brooklyn Center, April 22-26 for Senior Records Clerk.

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

City Clerk**Audio and Large Group Permit for Las Fronteras Cinco de Mayo Celebration, 503 Belgrade Avenue**

Clerk Gehrke presented an audio and large group permit for Las Fronteras to hold a Cinco de Mayo celebration at 503 Belgrade Avenue on Sunday, May 5, 2013 from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Maria Hidalgo of Las Fronteras, and Yolanda Martinez, BPA South Central College, appeared before the Council in support of the celebration. Ms. Hidalgo reported 10 percent of the profits raised would be used to sponsor the South Central College Spanish Club and students going to nationals in May and 10 percent of the profits would be used for KMSU equipment updates. She also reported that the music would end at 8 p.m., then tear down of equipment would begin. The Clerk reported that all the necessary insurance is in place and the Police Department has reviewed the area where the celebration will be held. **Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to approve the audio and large group permit for the Las Fronteras Cinco de Mayo Celebration to be held at 503 Belgrade Avenue from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday, May 5, 2013. Vote on the motion: Steiner, Norland, Freyberg, Spears and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

City Engineer**Res. No. 21-13 Ordering Improvement and Plans & Specifications for Project No. 13-01ABCDEF, Cliff Court Reconstruction**

Engineer Malm reviewed the feasibility report for Project No. 13-01ABCDEF, Cliff Court Reconstruction which calls for a sidewalk to be included as part of the project. He stated the City Code states that all new street improvement projects will include a sidewalk and it has been the policy of the City Council for the past 10 years to include sidewalks in new and reconstruction projects. Some discussion was held regarding a Sidewalk Master Plan for the City. **Council Member Spears moved, seconded by Council Member Freyberg, to adopt Resolution No. 21-13 Ordering Improvements and Ordering Plans and Specifications for Project No. 13-01ABCDE, Cliff Court Reconstruction without the sidewalk for two reasons: 1) This is a cul de sac; and 2) the cul de sac is less than 1,000 lineal feet. Vote on the Resolution: Steiner, Norland, Freyberg, Spears and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried. The Council directed that a Sidewalk Master Plan be addressed at a later date.**

Res. No. 22-13 Ordering Improvement and Ordering Plans and Specifications for Project No. 13-04D, 2013 Street Improvements

Engineer Malm reported Project No. 13-04D, 2013 Street Improvements include the street overlays for Howard Drive West Extension, Ringhofer Drive, Willow Lane, Willow Court, Otter

Court, Balsam Court and Balsam Drive. He reported of the estimated \$370,000 cost of the improvement, approximately \$100,000 will be funded by private developers. **Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to adopt Resolution No. 22-13 Ordering Improvement and Ordering Plans and Specifications for Project No. 13-04D, 2013 Street Improvements. Vote on the Resolution: Steiner, Norland, Freyberg, Spears and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

City Attorney

Attorney Kennedy apologized for not being in attendance at the February 19, 2013 Council meeting reporting that he scheduled an appointment on this Tuesday forgetting about the President's Day holiday which moved the Council meeting.

Report from Council Members

Council Member Steiner

Council Member Steiner reported the North Mankato Civic & Commerce Association will be seeking pledges to purchase the "Circle of Friends" sculpture for placement in front of the North Mankato Taylor Library. He reported the cost of the sculpture is \$35,000 and to date he has received \$700.

Council Member Norland

Council Member Norland presented information from Region 9 regarding the Minnesota Solar Challenge. Anyone interested in more information may contact laurac@mnrenewables.org.

Report from Mayor

Riverfront Park Sound Complaints

Mayor Dehen presented the document regarding the Riverfront Park sound complaints reporting he attended a public forum on this matter. He reported prior to any summer activities held in 2013, Mankato City park staff will measure ambient noise levels in affected neighborhoods prior to any event to determine normal decibel readings and again during the events. In addition, PA speakers will be directed into the Amphitheater Bowl, a 10 p.m. closing will be instituted for all weekday events with the exception of RibFest and all weekend events will conclude prior to 11 p.m. Mankato City staff may seek the assistance of a professional to assist in providing reasonable suggestions and solutions to help mitigate the sound. The Mayor also reported that large conifers will be planted behind the amphitheater stage which should help to absorb the sound that would be moving in that direction.

"Coffee with the Council"

The Mayor reported "Coffee with the Council" will be held from 10 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturday, March 16, 2013 at the North Mankato Police Annex Community Room. He reported John Harrenstein, the new City Administrator will be in attendance and this is a good opportunity for residents to meet him.

Pedal Past Poverty

The Mayor thanked everyone who participated in the Pedal Past Poverty event held on Saturday, March 2, 2013 and reported that a total of \$68,000 was raised from this event. He also reported that Dancing with the Stars raised a total of \$53,000.

Open the Meeting to the Public for the Second Time

David Allen, 114 Cliff Court

David Allen, 114 Cliff Court, appeared before the Council and thanked the Council for removing the sidewalks from the Cliff Court Reconstruction Project and for saving the trees on this street.

Bills and Appropriations

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to approve all bills and appropriations in the amounts of \$7,662.81 and \$570,573.92. Vote on the motion: Steiner, Norland, Freyberg, Spears and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m. on a motion by Council Member Norland, seconded by Council Member Steiner. Vote on the motion: Steiner, Norland, Freyberg, Spears and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Mayor

City Clerk