

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 20, 2015. Council Member Norland called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. asking that everyone join in the Pledge of Allegiance. The following were present for roll call: Council Members Norland, Freyberg, and Spears, City Administrator Harrenstein, Finance Director Thorne, Attorney Kennedy, City Clerk Van Genderen, and City Planner Fischer. Absent from the meeting were Council Member Steiner and Public Works Director Swanson. Council Member Norland performed the duties of the Mayor until Mayor Dehen arrived during the first Public Comments.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Council Member Freyberg moved, seconded by Council Member Spears, to approve the minutes of the Council Workshop of January 5, 2015. Vote on the motion: Norland, Freyberg, and Spears aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Council Member Spears moved, seconded by Council Member Freyberg to approve the minutes of the Council meeting of January 5, 2015. Vote on the motion: Norland, Freyberg, and Spears aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

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

- A. Bills and Appropriations.
- B. Res. No. 09-15 Approving Donations/Contributions/Grants.
- C. Approved Parade Permit for Anniversary of Taylor Corporation, Roe Crest Drive, Thursday, August 20, 2015 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- D. Accept all bids for 2015 Material and Equipment Rental Rates from bid opening of January 5, 2015.
- E. Res. No. 10-15 Approving the Proposed Transfer of the Cable Franchise currently held by CC VIII Operating, LLC d/b/a Charter Communications.
- F. Res. No. 11-15 Approving Plans and Specifications, and Ordering Advertisement for Bids for Project No. 14-01 Main Lift Station (Lift Station No. 1) Rehabilitation.
- G. Set Public Hearing for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 17, 2015 for Revision of City Code, Section 156, creating an R-3A Medium Density Residential District.

Vote on the motion: Norland, Freyberg, and Spears, aye; no nays. Motion carried. City Clerk Van Genderen reported the advertisement for bids for Project No. 14-01 included in the packet did not contain the correct dates. Council would pass a revised advertisement with corrected dates.

Public Comments

Tom Hagen, 927 Lake Street, appeared before the Council and congratulated the Council and Staff on nearing completion of the Comprehensive Plan. Hagen indicated before the Comprehensive Plan was completed more citizen input should be elicited.

Barb Church, 102 East Wheeler, appeared before the Council and stated citizens should have more opportunities to provide suggestions for the Comprehensive Plan. Church indicated the Central Business District should be renamed.

Business Items

Preliminary and Final Plat of Knight Development Subdivision

City Planner Fischer reported the request to replat Outlot A, Marigold Subdivision was from Adam Huiras who recently purchased Outlot A, Marigold Subdivision for the future construction of a 19-unit townhome project. Fischer reported that Outlot A is a 1.37-acre lot that was reserved for future development. Adam Huiras requested the property be replatted as Knight Development Subdivision consisting of Lot 1, Block 1, and utility easements for the protection of existing underground utilities and a future private access road. Planner Fischer reported the proposed development complies with all applicable Central Business District City Code requirements and the Planning Commission reviewed the request and approved the replatting of Outlot A. **Council Member Freyberg moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to approve the Preliminary and Final Plat of Knight Development Subdivision. Vote on the motion: Norland, Freyberg, Spears and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

Presentation of Draft Parks Plan

Administrator Harrenstein introduced City Intern Matt Lassonde who presented the draft Master Parks Plan. Lassonde presented a PowerPoint explaining that the Parks Plan serves to provide an organizing document and platform for future park development, identifies the costs of maintenance and improvements for the park and communicates to citizens the City's planned maintenance and infrastructure expenditures. He stated the costs for yearly replacement of existing items was \$124,563 annually and the cost to improve the parks system as laid out was \$142,650 annually for a total annual operating cost of \$267,213. Lassonde stated the annual operating cost presented did not include the Benson Park completion, a Caswell Park Complex Indoor Recreational Facility, Caswell Park Complex Fields 7 and 8 or the Spring Lake Park swim facility renovations. Mayor Dehen thanked Matt Lassonde for the plan. Council Member Norland stated it was a good plan but the question was raised concerning where the funds would come from to maintain and improve the parks system. Council Member Freyberg indicated that the Sales Tax Fund should not be the source for the park system upgrade and expansion especially because of increased street allocations. Council Member Spears stated it was a nice wish list but he believes the roads come first, then parks and last are the recreational parks such as Caswell. Spears noted he would like the recreational parks removed from the parks plan to be considered separately.

Presentation of Draft Comprehensive Plan

Administrator Harrenstein introduced Kelsey Johnson from WSB & Associates who presented a PowerPoint of the Draft Comprehensive Plan. Johnson reviewed the purpose of the plan, process/community engagement efforts, organization of the plan, highlights from each chapter and the city's next steps following completion of the plan. Johnson indicated that the purpose of the plan was to express the City's vision for the future, create a strategic map to reach that vision, lay out a vision for future land development and land use, dictate where growth should occur and dictate what type of growth should occur. Johnson reviewed the planning process and community engagement including four focus group meetings, four community open houses, student engagement at both Garfield and Dakota Meadows schools, a Commerce Drive Stakeholder meeting, one-on-one phone interviews with key stakeholders, City Council Workshops, monthly City Council and Planning Commission meetings and website and social media engagement. Johnson laid out the organization of the plan which includes

land use, housing, economic development, transportation, utilities, parks, trails and recreation, downtown redevelopment and community design. Johnson reviewed the final steps before City Council adoption which includes a review by the Planning Commission and a final review and adoption by the City Council. Council Member Freyberg indicated that the indoor recreation center should be considered separately from the rest of the parks and trails system. Freyberg noted that the Parks and Green Spaces Committee that Council Member Norland worked with in 2007 to 2010 did not envision an indoor recreation center rather their focus was green spaces. Council Member Norland agreed that their focus was the green spaces. Council Member Spears indicated the public should have an opportunity to review the Draft Comprehensive plan on the website, Facebook or e-mail. Mayor Dehen stated that once the Comprehensive Plan was adopted the plan could be sent back to the Planning Commission to update City Codes and Ordinances. Kelsey Johnson responded that the plan could be used to guide the Planning Commission and Council in updating City Code and guiding the overall vision of the City. Johnson also stated that the plan should be reviewed annually and have complete overhaul every 10-years.

City Administrator and Staff Comments

Administrator Harrenstein reported his visit to the Capitol for Greater Mankato Day at the Capitol was successful in making the Legislature aware of Greater Mankato's importance to the State.

Mayor and Council Comments

Council Member Freyberg reported the All-Seasons Arena board was working on providing ice for area ice skaters and hockey players.

Council Member Spears stated Greater Mankato Growth day at the Capitol was successful in bringing the Greater Mankato Area to the attention of the legislature.

Mayor Dehen reported the Department of Employment and Economic Development sent a letter noting the grant for Thin Film Technologies was no longer active.

Mayor Dehen indicated transportation was a big discussion at the Capitol because there needs to be a long term solution.

Council Member Freyberg reported Thursday, January 15th the Riverfront Noise Committee met to discuss how to eliminate/abate the noise from Riverside Park. He indicated nothing was resolved.

Public Comments

Matthias Leyrer, 632 Belgrade Avenue, appeared before the Council and stated accessory dwelling units should be explored as a way to get higher density in neighborhoods. Leyrer indicated the City should consider on-street parking on both sides of Belgrade or a designated bike lane to slow down traffic. Leyrer noted Commerce Drive should have design elements implemented to increase pedestrian traffic.

Tom Hagen, 927 Lake Street, stated citizens needed to be engaged face to face by the Council and staff, not just social media, to provide opportunity to discuss the Comprehensive Plan.

Barb Church, 102 East Wheeler, indicated the noise committee concluded that those booking the acts need more direction from the City of Mankato to help determine what acts are appropriate.

Church then read a portion of a letter from Bess Tsaouse, 136 Mary Circle, who stated the overall Comprehensive Plan was good but indicated three topics were not addressed in the Comprehensive Plan. Tsaouse specified the three trends not addressed was the demographics of aging, the demographics of ethnicity and the demographics of increasing poverty. Administrator Harrenstein suggested the information from Bess Tsaouse be submitted electronically so the information could be utilized.

Mayor Dehen indicated the City would have an open house for the Comprehensive Plan to allow public comment.

There being no further business, on a motion by Council Member Norland, seconded by Council Member Freyberg, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk