

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 June 15, 2015. 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 roll call: Mayor Dehen, Council Members Spears, Steiner, Norland and Freyberg, City Administrator Harrenstein, Finance Director Thorne, Attorney Kennedy, City Clerk Van Genderen, City Planner Fischer and Public Works Director Swanson.

#### **Approval of Agenda**

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

#### **Approval of Minutes**

**Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner to approve the minutes of the Council meeting of June 1, 2015. Vote on the motion: Steiner, Norland, Freyberg and Dehen aye; Spears abstain. Motion carried.**

#### **Consent Agenda**

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

- A. Bills and Appropriations.
- B. Res. No. 45-15 Approving Donations/Contributions/Grants.
- C. Set Public Hearing for 7 p.m. on July 6, 2015 to Amend City Code, Title XI, Business Regulations, Chapter 111, Alcoholic Beverages, Hours of Sale.
- D. Traffic and Safety Committee Minutes.
- E. Audio Permit for NaKato Bar & Grill, 253 Belgrade Avenue, July 4, 2015 from 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
- F. Parade Permit for the Mankato Family YMCA 5K Run, Saturday, November 14, 2015 from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- G. Res. No. 46-15 Declaring Costs to be Assessed for Municipal Charges-439 South Avenue.
- H. Res. No. 47-15 Declaring Costs to be Assessed for Municipal Charges-205 Queens Court.
- I. Res. No. 48-15 Declaring Costs to be Assessed for Municipal Charges-834 South Avenue.
- J. Res. No. 49-15 Declaring Costs to be Assessed for Municipal Charges-10 Arlington Court.
- K. North Mankato Safe Routes to School Plan.

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

#### **Public Comments**

Barry Hager, CenterPoint Energy, appeared before the Council and presented Sandra Howe from the North Mankato Police Department a check for \$1,500.00 to help purchase training safety mats.

Barb Church, 102 East Wheeler Avenue, appeared before the Council and requested the City of North Mankato consider working with Zero Waste's Organics Recycling Project. Mayor Dehen requested the City place contact information in the City's E-newsletter.

**Business Items****Consider Accepting the 2014 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).**

Kyle Meyers from Abdo, Eick & Meyers appeared before the Council to present the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the year ended December 31, 2014. Mr. Meyers gave a PowerPoint presentation recapping the year's activities and reported an unmodified or "clean" audit. He reported the City received the GFOA Certificate for 2014 for the 27<sup>th</sup> year. GASB 61, the Port Authority Component Unit, is now blended in with other City funds for the 2014 report. Mr. Meyers reviewed the General Fund balance, 2014 General fund operations, General Fund revenue by source, General Fund expenditures by program, Special Revenue funds, Debt Service funds and Capital Projects funds. Mr. Meyers also reviewed the Enterprise Funds cash flows for water utility, sewer utility, sanitary collection, storm water and solid waste fund. He presented a ratio analysis of the City's peer group for debt to assets, debt service coverage, debt per capita, taxes per capita, current expenditures per capita, capital expenditures per capita, capital assets % left to depreciate for government and business-type, and reported the City is in line with the peer group. Mr. Meyers commended the City Administrator and Finance Director for their work preparing for the CAFR. Council Member Freyberg indicated the annual debt service requirements for the next 10 years only shows what would happen to the debt service fund if the City did not acquire additional debt. Council Member Spears requested information on how the City plans to restore the storm water and sanitary collection fund. Administrator Harrenstein indicated that with the new contract with West Central Sanitation the City would see what the sanitary collection fund looks like at the end of the year. Administrator Harrenstein stated the storm water fund is used to replace curb and gutter, upgrade electrical for the pumping stations and funds one staff member. Harrenstein noted that the Strategic Plan specifically reviews the storm water fee and will be addressed this year. Council Member Freyberg indicated that page 9 of the Management Letter shows the Local Option Sales Tax as reduced in 2014. Mr. Meyers indicated the City transferred out more than it received. Council Member Freyberg stated he would like to see the City implement a funding formula for each year to allow the City to have consistency with how much it spends. **Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner to accept the 2014 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). Vote on the motion: Spears, Steiner, Norland, Freyberg and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

**V-1-15, Variance Request to Increase the Maximum Height of a Fence in a Front Yard Setback from 3 feet to 5 feet, a Request from Kerry and Jennifer Walls.**

City Planner Fischer indicated the Planning Commission originally reviewed the request on May 14, 2015. The Planning Commission tabled the request for three reasons: 1) Review of the request by the Traffic & Safety Committee. 2) Allow the applicant to request a specific fence height. 3) Send notification to area residents should the height of the fence change. The Traffic & Safety Committee reviewed the plan on May 21, 2015 and recommended approval of the five foot high wrought iron fence in a specific location. The Planning Commission met on June 11, 2015 and reviewed the applicable test to qualify for a reasonable modification of a zoning ordinance under the American's with Disability Act (ADA). The Planning Commission believed the variance request met the criteria for such modifications. The Planning Commission recommends the variance as long as the property is occupied by the applicant because the modification is to benefit a child with a disability. Council Member Freyberg requested clarification on how the variance would be recorded. City Planner Fischer indicated the variance would be recorded with the County of Nicollet. **Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner to approve V-1-15, Variance Request to Increase the Maximum Height of a Fence in a Front Yard Setback from 3 feet to 5 feet. Vote on the motion: Spears, Steiner, Norland, Freyberg, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

**City Administrator and Staff Comments**

Administrator Harrenstein congratulated Library Director Lucy Lowry on nearly doubling the attendance from last year at Bookin' on Belgrade nearly 5K family fun run.

Administrator Harrenstein congratulated Public Works Director Swanson on a successful Movie in the Park, with nearly 1,000 people in attendance.

Public Works Director Swanson thanked the Fire Department, the Police Department and the North Mankato Taylor Library for helping to make Movie in the Park successful.

**Mayor and Council Comments**

Council Member Steiner stated he was contacted by a resident concerning boulevard trees on the north side of Belgrade that were impeding walkers on the sidewalk. Public Works Director Swanson stated the Parks Department would address the issue.

Council Member Steiner reported concerns about bicyclists not using the biking lanes correctly and impeding traffic during rush hour. Mayor Dehen indicated he would contact bicyclist groups to try and eliminate the problem.

Council Member Norland requested a flier for Zero Waste Organics be included in the utility bill. Administrator Harrenstein stated the City would need to see it first before a flier could be included in the utility bill.

Mayor Dehen thanked the Police and the City for working with the Elks on the Flag Day Celebration held at Centennial Park on June 14, 2015.

**Public Comments**

Mike Kennedy, City Attorney, stated his grandson is working on becoming an Eagle Scout and is collecting books on behalf of the Ronald McDonald House. Attorney Kennedy stated books could be dropped off at the Dork Den at 603 North Riverfront Drive, Mankato or at the offices of Kennedy and Kennedy at 99 Navajo Avenue, Mankato.

There being no further business, on a motion by Council Member Steiner, seconded by Council Member Norland, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

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Mayor

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City Clerk