

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 4, 2015. Mayor Dehen called the meeting to order at 7:10 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, Attorney Kennedy, Planner Fischer, Public Works Director Swanson and Deputy Clerk Anderson.

Approval of Agenda

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Freyberg, 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 Freyberg noted he wanted to clarify a response from Anna Thill of Visit Mankato to Council Member Spear's statement that a sports facility study was already completed. Ms. Thill had commented the All Seasons Arena partially completed a sports facility study, and the study indicated the need for a facility but they were unable to complete the financial study. Council Member Freyberg clarified that the reason the financial study was not completed was not due to lack of funds, it was not completed as the conclusion of the report showed there was no reason to go any further as the demand was not sufficient to replace the debt that it would incur.

Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to approve the minutes of the Council meeting of April 20, 2015. Vote on the motion: Steiner, Norland, Freyberg, Spears and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Public Hearing, 7 p.m.-Amend City Code, Title XV, Land Usage, Chapter 156, Zoning Code

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing. Administrator Harrenstein noted the public hearing was to accept comment on the proposed Planned Unit Development Ordinance. With no one appearing before the Council, the Mayor closed the Public Hearing.

Consent Agenda

Council Member Spears commented on Agenda Item H asking for a definition of a rapid rectangular flashing beacon. Public Works Director Swanson explained it is an illuminated warning light to alert vehicular traffic approaching the Highway 169 northbound on-ramp of pedestrians in the vicinity.

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

- A. Bills and Appropriations.
- B. Res. No. 49-14 Approving Donations/Contributions/Grants.
- C. Parade Permit for American Cancer Society, Saturday, October 10, 2015 from 10 a.m. to Noon.
- D. Minutes from the North Mankato Bicycle Commission.
- E. Set Public Hearing for 7 p.m. on Monday, May 18, 2015 to Consider Amending City Code Chapter 50.04, Rules and Regulations Relating to Municipal Utilities.
- F. Application for Temporary 3.2 Permit for North Mankato Civic & Commerce Association, for Fun Days, July 9-12, 2015 Wheeler Park.
- G. Parade Permit for Crossview Covenant Church, 5K Fun Run to Support 5C's Preschool, Sunday, June 14, 2015 from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

H. Resolution of the City of North Mankato to Provide Maintenance of the Veterans Memorial Bridge Pedestrian Crossing Flasher.

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

Mayor Dehen thanked those that made donations to the North Mankato Taylor Library.

Public Comments

Guest of Mayor Dehen, Da Vine Duck from VINE Faith in Action

Mayor Dehen welcomed Da Vine Duck who shared information on an upcoming VINE fundraising event to raise funds to install a warm water exercise pool at the Vine Adult Community Center (VACC). Splish-Splash on Fiesta Fantasy Island, is to be held on Friday, May 15, 2015 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, May 17, 2015 at 2 p.m. at the Best Western Hotel in North Mankato.

Barb Church, 102 Wheeler Avenue

Barb Church appeared before the Council on behalf of the group Friends of North Mankato stating they have not given up on raising funds for the purchase of the property at 1610 LorRay Drive. Ms. Church reported the group has signed a contract with the Region 9 Area Inc., who will be their fiscal sponsor. Ms. Church noted Friends of North Mankato will be reaching out to the public to raise funds. They can be reached at their email address, northmankatofriends@gmail.com and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/northmankatofriends.

Phil Henry, 1300 Noretta Drive

Phil Henry, 1300 Noretta Drive, appeared before the Council and asked if Business Item #10C was for a bike trail and how much it would cost. He stated that City funds should be spent on streets and infrastructure.

Business Items

Consider Adoption of Ord. No. 65, Fourth Series, Amending North Mankato City Code, Title XV, Land Usage, Chapter 156, Zoning Code

City Intern Matt Lassonde discussed development of the Planned Unit Development (PUD) Ordinance and outlined the sources used to create the Ordinance, the benefits and the application process. Council Member Spears expressed he is not in favor of adopting the Ordinance right now, indicating the City already has mechanisms in place that can be used for future development. Planner Fischer noted many cities use PUD's as a tool for creative developments. Planner Fischer explained that if a developer were to request more density, smaller street widths or lot sizes in a development, a PUD could be used, however the project would still need to be consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan and approved by the City Council. Council Member Freyberg noted the City already has PUD areas within the City. Mayor Dehen indicated PUD's were in the code at one time and were taken out.

Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to adopt Ord. No. 65, Fourth Series, Amending North Mankato City Code, Title XV, Land Usage, Chapter 156, Zoning Code. Vote on the motion: Steiner, Norland, Freyberg, Dehen, aye; Spears, nay. Motion carried.

Resolution Adopting the Master Parks Plan

City Intern Matt Lassonde presented the final version of the Master Parks Plan. Administrator Harrenstein noted the plan serves as a building block upon the foundation of the work that was completed by the Park and Green Spaces committee chaired by Council Member Norland from 2007-

2010 and thanked them for their participation. Administrator Harrenstein commented that the plan serves as a covenant with the future generations of the community and that strong parks are a cornerstone of strong neighborhoods. Council Member Spears questioned why \$2 million was left out of the report associated with Benson Park as this park seems to be a priority. Administrator Harrenstein explained the City can reasonably expect to increase funding for capital outlay in parks by \$100,000 per year to meet existing needs. To complete Benson Park, another \$200,000 per year is needed or a total of \$2 million dollars. Council Member Spears inquired as to how Caswell Park was removed from consideration in the report. Intern Lassonde indicated Caswell Park was removed from the maintenance inventory as there will be a Caswell Park master plan. Caswell Park is still included in the total inventory of existing park systems. Council Member Spears questioned the section of the report under Proposed Park System and Additional Acreage stating 30 acres is listed for an athletic complex and questioned if that is in addition to Caswell Park. Administrator Harrenstein noted that while Caswell Park yearly operation and capital replacement cost was removed from the report, Caswell was included in the acreage as the City would plan to consider adding acreage into the athletic complex and facilities. Council Member Spears questioned the ratio of park growth in relation to population growth numbers, noting emphasis may be too high on the athletic portion of the plan. Council Member Norland indicated the athletic facilities bring business into the community.

Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to adopt the Master Parks Plan. Vote on the motion: Steiner, Norland, Freyberg and Dehen aye; Spears, nay. Motion carried.

Resolution Adopting Plans and Specifications and Ordering Advertisements for Bids for Project No. 14-04DF Trunk Highway 14 Trail SP 150-090-002

City Engineer Dan Sarff presented plans for the Highway 14 Trail project for pedestrians and bicyclists which was initiated in 2010 through a federal funding application program. The City has obtained \$400,000 in federal funds with support from MnDOT and will borrow \$400,000 to complete the \$800,000 project. The multi-use trail would connect the valley with the hilltop and have built-in ADA compliant rest areas. The project would have a bid date of June 2015 with construction to begin in July 2015. Council Member Spears asked if the trail would be a link to the larger trail system in the region. Engineer Sarff stated at this time there are no direct links; however there are opportunities to expand the trail in the future and the goal is to have the route eventually link with the Minnesota River Trail. Mayor Dehen noted this is an opportunity to leverage the federal funds as they will not be available in the future.

Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to adopt Res. No. 14-04DF Trunk Highway 14 SP 150-090-002. Vote on Resolution: Steiner, Norland, Freyberg, Spears and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.

City Administrator and Staff Comments

Administrator Harrenstein reported the opening of the Caswell North Soccer Complex for a statewide tournament was a huge success. He has directed staff to generate a report with estimates of number of visitors, revenue and expenditures with hosting an event of that size. Public Works Director Swanson reported the volume of visitors was what they expected and the overflow parking was handled well and the area kept safe.

Mayor and Council Comments

Council Member Spears

Council Member Spears reported areas in need of pothole repair. Public Works Director Swanson commented that street crews would be starting repair this week.

Council Member Spears began discussion on having Council direct staff to allow an insert in the City utility bill from the Friends of North Mankato (FONM) so the group could promote their fundraising to purchase the Tschohl Property. Council Member Spears noted Council told FONM the City would encourage their efforts. Council Member Norland commented that if the City allows FONM to have an insert in the utility bill, residents may view it as the City asking for funds. Council Member Freyberg stated he's a firm supporter of the FONM, however, it may set a precedent of allowing non-profits to solicit in a public media for a public purpose, noting the City should not get involved as the property is still privately owned. Mayor Dehen stated that whatever rules apply for other groups to have inserts in the utility bill should also apply to FONM. Council Member Freyberg noted he wants to see a copy of the proposed insert. Mayor Dehen made a motion to table making any decision until staff can investigate the standards for utility bill inserts and provide a copy of the proposed insert from the FONM.

Mayor Dehen moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to instruct City staff to investigate the standards for utility bill inserts and to provide a copy of the proposed insert from the Friends of North Mankato for Council to review. Vote on motion: Steiner, Norland, Freyberg, Spears and Dehen, aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Mayor Dehen reported he took a tour with Administrator Harrenstein of the Dakota Meadows Sixth Grade School Expansion which should be completed in September. The school will host a future Open House for the general public.

Public Comments

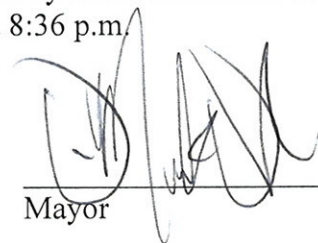
Barb Church, 102 Wheeler Avenue

Barb Church thanked the Council for considering allowing the Friends of North Mankato to put an insert in the City utility bill. Ms. Church also commented on transparency from the City for the future commercial parking lot project in her neighborhood.

Phil Henry, 1300 Noretta Drive

Phil Henry expressed his concern over the Highway 14 Bicycle Trail and property taxes.

There being no further business, on a motion by Council Member Norland, seconded by Council Member Steiner, the meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.



Mayor

Heather Anderson
Deputy City Clerk