

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 April 4, 2016. 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, and Norland, City Administrator Harrenstein, Attorney Kennedy, City Planner Fischer, Public Works Director Swanson and City Clerk Van Genderen. Absent: Council Member Freyberg and Finance Director Thorne.

Approval of Agenda

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to approve the agenda as presented. Vote on the motion: Spears, Steiner, Norland 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 March 21, 2016. Vote on the motion: Spears, Steiner, Norland and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Public Hearing, 7 pm-2016-2017 HUD Annual Plan.

City Planner Fischer reported in order to receive HUD money the City must submit an annual action plan which proposes the use of funds. In 2016 the City will receive an allocation of \$67,827 and currently the City has approximately \$75,000 in unused funds. The City has approximately \$143,000 in available funds and the City is proposing to use the money to redesign the front entrance and parking lot to the Municipal Building. Accessibility is an approved use of the CDBG funds. Barb Church, 102 Wheeler Avenue, appeared before Council and stated she was not opposed to using funds for accessibility but she would have preferred that the funds were split between use on the Municipal Building and using the funds to improve low to moderate income homes. Mayor Dehen indicated the unused funds had originally been allocated for low to moderate income home improvement but the City had a difficult time locating home owners who qualified. With no one else appearing before Council the Public Hearing was closed.

Consent Agenda

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

- A. Bills and Appropriations.
- B. Res. No. 35-16 Approving Donations/Contributions/Grants.
- C. Consider Approving Parade Permit for Mankato Brewery's MAD Bull 5K Fundraiser for the Mankato Area Derby Girls on July 31, 2016 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.
- D. Consider Approving Parade Permit for A.B.A.T.E. of Minnesota's Motorcycle Awareness Group Ride on May 7, 2016 from 1:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- E. Res. No. 36-16 Approving Consent Assessment Agreement-332 McKinley Avenue.
- F. Consider League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust Liability Coverage Waiver Form.

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

Public Comments

Presentation by the Miracle League of Dreamscape All-Inclusive Playground at Caswell Park.

Eric Sletten, Executive Director of the Miracle League, appeared before Council and presented information on the proposed Miracle League Dreamscape all-inclusive playground. Mr. Sletten reviewed proposed playground equipment and materials that allow inclusive play allowing individuals of all abilities to play. The Dreamscape playground would be located next to Fallenstein Fields by North Mankato's Caswell Park. Chuck Stoffer, Miracle League Board Member, appeared before Council and indicated the playground is personally important as one of his children has disabilities and the Dreamscape playground would allow his child to play unencumbered.

Tom Hagen, 927 Lake Street appeared before Council and stated he received a memo addressing his concerns about noise in Spring Lake Park. Mr. Hagen indicated he was dissatisfied with the memo and wanted members of the Council to contact him.

Roger Sheffer, 925 Lake Street, appeared before Council and stated the hill that his house rests on naturally amplifies sound and noise from Spring Lake Park occasionally disturbs his peace.

Nick Frentz, 26 Sandy Court, appeared before Council and stated he was excited about the possible construction of a sports facility in North Mankato.

Phil Henry, 1300 Noretta Drive, appeared before Council and requested clarification on how to contact the Police Department after office hours for non-emergencies. Chief Boyer reported citizens could call 507-931-1570 and speak with someone from Nicollet County dispatch.

Barb Church, 102 Wheeler Avenue, appeared before Council and requested clarification on if Council Workshops were videotaped. Ms. Church stated she would have preferred estimates included in the North Kato Ideas questionnaire.

Business Items

Res. No. 37-16 Adopting the 2016-2017 Action Plan. Council Member Spears stated he had concerns about continuing to accept HUD money. He indicated if the City uses HUD money it opens doors to allowing HUD to come in and impose policies on the City. **Council Member Spears moved to table the item for vote until April 18, 2016. With no second the motion failed.** Council Member Spears reviewed the idea of not tying future Council's hands by taking HUD money. Council Member Steiner questioned how the use of funds in 2016 would tie future Council's hands. Mayor Dehen stated he found it difficult to see how this project would tie future Council's hands. Council Member Spears stated in the future the City would continue to take HUD funds and the funds could be a conduit for Federal Government interference in the City. **Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner to Adopt Res. No. 37-16 Adopting the 2016-2017 Action Plan. Vote on the motion: Norland, Steiner and Dehen aye; Spears nay. Motion carried.**

Res. No. 38-16 Adopting Resolution Approving Plans and Specifications and Ordering Advertisements for Bids, Project No. 15-02ABCDE 2016 Roe Crest Drive Improvement Project. City Engineer Dan Sarff appeared before Council and stated the plans and specifications would be available at City Hall for review. **Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner to adopt Res. No. 38-16 Approving Plans and Specifications and Ordering Advertisements for Bids, Project No. 15-02ABCDE 2016 Roe Crest Drive Improvement Project. Vote on the motion: Steiner, Norland and Dehen aye; Spears nay. Motion carried.**

North Mankato Police Department 2015 Year End Report-Chief Boyer.

Chief Boyer appeared before Council and presented the 2015 Year End Report. Chief Boyer indicated personal crimes and property crimes were down. He noted narcotic crimes were up but the City of North Mankato has not seen the influx of heroin other area towns were experiencing. Methamphetamine crimes are up with the majority of the drugs coming from Mexico because it is difficult to produce meth due to restrictions on obtaining the materials. Police Chief Boyer stated overall the statistics were higher because of the new reporting system which requires reports for every call. Chief Boyer stated the North Mankato Police Department installed a medication disposal box in the lobby of the Police Department and properly disposed of 349 pounds of medicine. Chief Boyer indicated the Police Department continues to improve public education.

City Administrator and Staff Comments

Public Works Director Swanson stated Spring Clean-up would occur from April 18-29, 2016.

City Administrator Harrenstein reported a successful day of communicating with legislators during the Greater Mankato Growth day at the Capitol. He congratulated the City Council for their involvement with the Dreamscape playground and the use of funds to improve accessibility to City Hall. Administrator Harrenstein thanked the Police Department for their work in ensuring the safety of the citizens of North Mankato. City Administrator Harrenstein stated Police Officers have a decibel reader that will be taken to noise complaints to insure noise pollution policies are followed.

Mayor and Council Comments

Mayor Dehen stated he received a thank you note from the Children’s Museum of Southern Minnesota for the Paint Wall.

Public Comments

Barb Church, 102 Wheeler Avenue, appeared before Council and stated she believed the resolution adopting the 2016-2017 Annual Action Plan should have been presented to Council earlier in the year.

Tom Hagen, 927 Lake Street appeared before Council and stated he was dissatisfied with the Council’s response to his concerns about audio permits at Spring Lake Park and requested Council create a committee to address the issue and stated he should be involved as he was the person who had the problem.

There being no further business, on a motion by Council Member Norland, seconded by Council Member Steiner, the meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk