

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 September 21, 2020. City Administrator Harrenstein on March 31, 2020, under MN Statute Section 13D.021, declared the use of electronic meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mayor Dehen called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m., asking that everyone join in the Pledge of Allegiance. The following were present remotely through Zoom for roll call: Council Members Whitlock, Oachs and Steiner, City Attorney Kennedy, Community Development Director Fischer, and Public Works Director Host, present in the Council Chambers for roll call: Council Member Norland, Mayor Dehen, City Administrator Harrenstein, Finance Director McCann, and City Clerk Van Genderen. Citizen participation was available through teleconference.

Approval of Agenda

Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to approve the agenda with Item 9F moved for separate consideration. Vote on the motion: Norland, Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Approval Council Minutes from the September 8, 2020, Council Meeting.

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Whitlock, to approve the minutes of the Council meeting of September 8, 2020. Vote on the motion: Norland, Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Approval Council Work Session Minutes from September 14, 2020, Council Work Session Meeting.

Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to approve the minutes of the Council Work Session Meeting of September 14, 2020. Vote on the motion: Norland, Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Proclamation:

WHEREAS, September 17, 2020, marks the two-hundred-thirty-third anniversary of the framing of the Constitution of the United States of America by the Constitutional Convention; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to accord official recognition to this magnificent document and its memorable anniversary, and to the patriotic celebrations which will commemorate it; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 915 guarantees the issuing of a proclamation each year by the President of the United States of America designating September 17 through 23 as Constitution Week.

NOW THEREFORE I, Mark Dehen, Mayor of North Mankato, by virtue of the power vested in me as Mayor of the City of North Mankato do hereby proclaim September 17 through 23 as:

CONSTITUTION WEEK

And ask our citizens to reaffirm the ideals the Framers of the Constitution had in 1787 by vigilantly protecting the freedoms guaranteed to us through this guardian of our liberties.

Dated this 21st day of September 2020.

Consent Agenda

Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to approve the Consent Agenda.

- A. Bills and Appropriations.
- B. Res. No. 73-20 Approving Donations/Contributions/Grants.
- C. Res. No. 74-20 Declaring Surplus Vehicles and Equipment.
- D. Approved Audio Permit for St. Paul's Church at 304 Monroe Avenue on September 25, 2020, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- E. Set Public Hearing for October 5, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. to Consider an Amendment to City Code Chapter 155 Allowing Administrative Lot Splits.

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

Res. No. 75-20 Providing for the Expenditure and Use of Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act Funding.

City Administrator Harrenstein reported that in June, Governor Walz announced a plan for the distribution of the CARES Act funds to cities and counties with populations above 200. The City of North Mankato has received the CARES Act allocation of \$1,059,209 in funding. Eligible expenses will be incurred between March 1st and November 15th and meet guidelines related to mitigating and preventing COVID-19 for staff, equipment, and technology. Proposed expenditures are outlined in Exhibit A attached to the resolution. He noted a few of the items, including technology and software upgrades of up to \$65,000, City staff costs of \$793,846, proposed library office expansion \$25,000 to allow social distancing in the library office and administrative fees of \$52,960. There were additional estimated expenses that were not explicitly discussed. Council Member Norland requested clarification on the allocation of \$18,315 for the disposal of mattresses. Public Works Director Host reported the City incurred extra costs during the spring clean up to dispose of the mattresses because the location that usually takes the mattresses was closed. The City had to pay for the mattress disposal. **Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to Adopt Res. No. 75-20 Providing for the Expenditure and Use of Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act Funding. Vote on the motion: Norland, Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

Public Comments Concerning Business Items on the Agenda

None.

Business Items**Res. No. 76-20 Approving a Proposed Tax Levy.**

City Administrator Harrenstein reported tonight the City would be setting the maximum levy. The Council can decrease the levy when they adopt the budget in December, but they may not increase the levy. Finance Director McCann reviewed four options, including a levy based on new growth for an additional \$99,000, a levy with a 1% rate reduction for \$155,000, a levy with a .5% rate reduction for an additional \$226,000, or a flat tax rate with an additional \$298,000. Council Member Oachs reported she was in favor of only capturing the new growth. Mayor Dehen stated he was interested in setting the maximum levy using the flat tax rate with the option to reduce taxes in December when the final tax rate is adopted. He stated it might be wise for the City to possibly plan a project for 2021 and

capture the low-interest rates. Council Member Norland said she liked the reasoning for setting the maximum levy at a flat rate as it may be useful to take advantage of the low-interest rates. Council Member Steiner also stated he was in favor of setting the maximum levy at the flat rate. **Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to Adopt Res. No. 76-20 Approving a Proposed Tax Levy. Vote on the motion: Norland, Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

Res. No. 77-20 Declaring Cost to be Assessed, and Ordering Preparation of Proposed Assessment Project No. 19-07 DEF Dakota Meadows Safe Routes to School/Howard Drive Improvement Project.

City Engineer Sarff appeared before Council and reported he would speak on the two resolutions declaring costs to be assessed and setting a public hearing for Project No. 19-07 DEF project assessment. He noted that due to the required timeline, the project is nearing completion before the assessment is completed. Still, Finance Director McCann has spoken with the only property owner that will be assessed, and they have not noted any concerns. The sole property is owned by ISD 77. The hearing will be held on October 19, 2020, to allow the State-mandated notification. **Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Whitlock, to Adopt Res. No. 77-20 Declaring Cost to be Assessed, and Ordering Preparation of Proposed Assessment Project No. 19-07 DEF Dakota Meadows Safe Routes to School/Howard Drive Improvement Project. Vote on the motion: Norland, Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

Res. No. 78-20 For Hearing on Proposed Assessment Project No. 19-07 DEF Dakota Meadows Safe Routes to School/Howard Drive Improvement Project. Council Member Whitlock moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner to Adopt Res. No. 78-20 For Hearing on Proposed Assessment Project No. 19-07 DEF Dakota Meadows Safe Routes to School/Howard Drive Improvement Project. Vote on the motion: Norland, Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.

Open Forum

None.

City Administrator and Staff Comments

City Administrator Harrenstein reported the Shop Small Campaign will now include the entire Mankato/North Mankato area. Area businesses are excited about the proposed changes.

City Administrator Harrenstein requested a proclamation declaring November as Small Businesses Month be made by the City of North Mankato.

City Administrator Harrenstein commented that the North Ridge area may see additional traffic due to the increased use of North Mankato parks for youth sporting events.

City Administrator Harrenstein thanked the anonymous donor who donated \$15,000 to the police department for equipment.

Finance Director McCann reported the City Council would be reviewing the Utility Funds at the Monday Council Work Session.

Public Works Director Host stated Countryside Drive is progressing and reminded residents of the Fall Drop-off on October 8-11.

City Clerk Van Genderen thanked residents for their willingness to volunteer to be election judges.

Mayor and Council Comments

Council Member Oachs thanked the anonymous donor for their generous donation.

Council Member Oachs requested the use of Nixle to announce areas where the leaves would be picked up during fall leaf pickup

Mayor Dehen asked staff to remind residents how to prepare their leaves for pickup.

Council Member Norland encouraged residents to mow their leaves in as natural fertilizer.

Council Member Norland encouraged residents to vote and know their options for voting.

Mayor Dehen thanked the staff and Council for their time at the strategic planning session.

Mayor Dehen thanked the anonymous donor.

Mayor Dehen reported the City received a certificate of recognition from Recharge-America and its Recharge MN partners including Fresh Energy and the Olseth Family Foundation. The certificate recognized the City of North Mankato for leadership in helping clear the way for clean transportation in the state.

At 7:42 p.m. on a motion by Council Member Norland, seconded by Council Member Oachs, the Council Meeting was adjourned.

Mayor

City Clerk