

The minutes of the Fairmont City Council meeting held on Monday, April 27, 2020 at the City Hall Council Chambers.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the peace time emergency declared by Governor Walz, the meeting was held by teleconferencing pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.021.

Mayor Deborah J. Foster called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Council Members Ruth Cyphers, Wayne Hasek, Tom Hawkins, Randy Lubenow and Bruce Peters were present. Also, in attendance: Interim City Administrator Mark Sievert, Public Works Director/City Engineer Troy Nemmers, Finance Director Paul Hoye, City Clerk Patricia J. Mosen, Police Chief Mike Hunter, City Attorney Robert Scott.

Council Member Hasek made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of a discussion about the tree dump site. Council Member Cyphers seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Hasek, Hawkins, Lubenow, Peters and Cyphers all voted aye. No one voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion passed.

Council Member Cyphers made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2020 City Council meeting. Council Member Hawkins seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Hawkins, Lubenow, Peters, Cyphers and Hasek all voted aye. No one voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion passed.

During open discussion, Staci Thompson, Executive Director for Habitat for Humanity spoke regarding the sale of 512 North Elm Street. Lowell Abelson of 522 North Elm Street attempted to speak, but was having problems with his audio.

There were two items on the consent agenda: School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding and an Updated Engineering Services Contract for the Lime Pond Closure. Council Member Hasek made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Council Member Peters seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Lubenow, Peters, Cyphers, Hawkins and Hasek all voted aye. No one voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion passed.

At the request of Councilor Hawkins, Hoye gave an update on the Fairmont Municipal Liquor Store and how it was doing financially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The second reading of **Ordinance 2020-05**, sale of 512 North Elm Street to Habitat for Humanity was held. Lowell Abelson of 522 North Elm Street was able to phone in and be heard regarding his desire to purchase 512 North Elm Street. After much discussion, Council Member Hawkins made a motion to approve **Ordinance 2020-05**. Council Member Cyphers seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Cyphers and Hawkins voted aye. Council Members Peters, Hasek and Lubenow voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion failed. Direction was given to staff to keep this matter moving forward and to work with Lowell Abelson and Staci Thompson, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity.

Council Member Peters made a motion to approve **Resolution 2020-24**, awarding contract to construct hangar taxilanes and apron at the Fairmont Municipal Airport to M.R. Paving and Excavating, Inc. of New Ulm, MN in the amount of \$370,271.09, contingent on the City receiving a federal grant. Council Member Cyphers seconded the motion. On roll call: Council

Members Lubenow, Peters, Cyphers, Hasek and Hawkins all voted aye. No one voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion passed.

Council Member Hawkins made a motion to adopt **Resolution 2020-25**, approving the advertising of 2019-A construction project, the multi-purpose trail and pedestrian bridge to Torgerson Drive. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Peters, Cyphers, Hasek, Hawkins and Lubenow all voted aye. No one voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion passed.

Council Member Hawkins made a motion to approve **Resolution 2020-23**, with modifications to appoint the seven incumbents and Chuck Omvig to the Charter Commission with all others being appointed as alternates. Council Member Lubenow seconded the motion. There was much discussion with Council Member Peters stating that he did not like Council Member Hawkins hand picking the members to be reappointed. On roll call: Council Members Hawkins, Lubenow and Cyphers all voted aye. Council Members Peters and Hasek voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion passed.

Council Member Lubenow made a motion to approve the payment of the April 2020 bills in the amount of \$1,028,296.02. Council Member Peters seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Lubenow, Peters, Cyphers, Hasek and Hawkins all voted aye. No one voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion passed.

Discussion was held regarding the tree dump site.

Mayor Foster announced that the Council's scheduled meeting of May 18th, with Pamela Whitmore from the League of MN Cities has been cancelled. A new date will be set once the new City Administrator has been hired.

Mayor Foster reminded Council of the City Administrator interviews scheduled for Monday, May 4, 2020.

Council Member Hawkins asked if interviews had been scheduled for the new civil city attorney. Mayor Foster stated she felt that this was something that should wait until the new city administrator was hired. Hawkins stated he doesn't see why the council cannot move forward with this.

A motion was made by Council Member Peters, seconded by Council Member Lubenow to adjourn the meeting at 6:41 p.m. On roll call: Council Members Peters, Cyphers, Hasek, Hawkins, and Lubenow all voted aye. No one voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion passed.

Deborah J. Foster, Mayor

ATTEST:

Patricia J. Monsen, City Clerk