

The minutes of the Fairmont City Council meeting held on Monday, December 14, 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 6:00 p.m.

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

Council Member Hasek made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Council Member Cyphers seconded the motion and the motion carried.

There was no public comment during open discussion.

Council Member Hawkins made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion and the motion carried. Items on the Consent Agenda were: Minutes from the November 23, 2020 City Council Meeting; Request for Demolition Assistance from Britney and Brian Kawecki; 2021 Miscellaneous License Renewals, Approval of **Resolution 2020-44**, Designating Polling Place for 2021 and **Resolution 2020-45** Accepting Donations.

Council Member Peters made a motion to approve **Ordinance 2020-13**, an ordinance for the sale of 35 acres of city owned property to Dick Gerhardt for the Dutch Creek habitat and water quality project. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion. On roll call vote: Council Members Hawkins, Peters, Cyphers and Hasek all voted aye. Council Member Lubenow voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion passed.

Mayor Foster reported on the closed session held November 23, 2020 for the six-month performance review of the City Administrator pursuant to MN Stat. 13D.05, Subd. 3(a). During the evaluation council discussed Reynold's performance in the following categories: individual characteristics, professional skills, relations with council, policy execution, communication and reporting, citizen relations, staffing, supervision, fiscal management and community. Overall, the council expressed satisfaction with Reynold's performance to date and look forward to continued progress and future work.

Finance Director Paul Hoye reviewed the payable 2021 tax levy and 2021 budget. There was no comment from the public. Council Member Peters made a motion to approve **Resolution 2020-46**, adopting the 2021 property tax levy and ordering its certification to the Martin County Auditor by December 28, 2020. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion. On roll call vote: Council Members Hasek, Peters, Cyphers and Hawkins all voted aye. Council Member Lubenow voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion passed. Council Member Cyphers made a motion to approve **Resolution 2020-47**, adopting the 2021 Budget. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion. On roll call vote: Council Members Peters, Cyphers, Hawkins and Hasek all voted aye. Council Member Lubenow voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion passed.

The first reading of proposed **Ordinance 2020-14**, an ordinance amending Fairmont City Code Article II, Section 20-27 Members. This ordinance reduces the number of members on the Planning Commission from six to five.

The first reading of proposed **Ordinance 2020-15**, an ordinance amending Fairmont City Code Chapter 26, Article II, Division 3, Section 26-56 Board of Appeals and Adjustments. This ordinance reduces the number of members on the Board of Appeals and Adjustments from six to five.

Council Member Lubenow made a motion to hire Bolton & Menk to provide professional services on the industrial water tower repair work. Council Member Peters seconded the motion. On roll call vote: Council Members Peters, Cyphers, Hawkins, Hasek and Lubenow all voted aye. No one voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion passed.

Nemmers presented the Council with a summary of revenue, expenses and usage for the yard waste recycling site, citywide clean-up and fall leaf pickup.

Nemmers announced that the tree dump will be closed tomorrow, December 15th until April 2021. He also reported that he has been working on the Dutch Creek project to have it ready for Winter/early Spring bidding.

Reynolds shared that city employee Dean Sandberg passed away on December 11th.

Council Member Cyphers reported that the airport had its “5010” inspection in August with the only major findings being some tall trees that need to be trimmed. The CARES Act packet was sent to MNDOT Aero.

Council Member Cyphers reported that CER has joined forces with CREST on a project called “Keep in Touch”. This will be a free monthly Senior Citizen activity newsletter.

Council Member Hawkins reported that the Planning Commission reviewed the final draft of the Comprehensive Plan. Hawkins stated that the HRA approved a lawn care bid and received an update from the contractor who is replacing windows.

Council Member Lubenow stated that the library has gone back to curb side pickup due to COVID, but that activity at the library and its branches has been steady. Lubenow reported that the Board of Zoning Appeals approved a second story addition to the Marina Lodge.

Council Member Peters stated that FEDA approved three \$25,000, interest free loans for area businesses as part of the CARES Act revolving loan fund. Fairmont Area Life has a Geofencing Campaign going on that has been highly successful.

A motion was made by Council Member Peters, seconded by Council Member Hasek and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

Deborah J. Foster, Mayor

ATTEST:

Patricia J. Monsen, City Clerk