

The minutes of the Fairmont City Council meeting held on Monday, January 25, 2021 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 Wayne Hasek, Britney Kawecki, Randy Lubenow, Michele Miller 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 Rahrnick.

Council Member Peters made a motion to approve the agenda with addressing item 7.2 prior to item 7.1 to allow additional time for citizens to call into the public hearing. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion and the motion carried.

There was no public comment during open discussion.

Council Member Miller 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 January 11, 2021 City Council Meeting; Payment of the January 2021 Accounts Payable; the reappointment of Dan Thiesse to the Police Commission, Jodie Whitmore and Vicky Schulte to the Park Board, Mary Jo Moltzen and Brian Johnson to the Public Utilities Commission, Tom Lytle to the Planning Commission, Richard Schaefer to the Safety Council, Barry Altman and Jeff Varboncoeur to the Airport Board and Mike Brau to the Housing and Redevelopment Authority; and the approval of the Fairmont Fire Department's annual election wherein they elected Brandon Scott as Chief, Bryan Kastning as Deputy Chief, Colby Whitmore as Captain, Tim Miller as 1st Lieutenant, Rob Iverson as 2nd Lieutenant and Matt Streit as Secretary.

Mayor Foster opened the public hearing for the amendment of **Ordinance 2020-12**, permission to sell real property by public auction. Staff is asking that this ordinance be amended to allow the private sale of 606 North Prairie Avenue (formerly 606 and 610 North Prairie Avenue) to M-Mar Properties for \$5,000.00. No public comment was received. Council Member Peters made a motion to close the public hearing. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Peters made a motion to approve **Resolution 2021-11** adopting Fairmont Forward: 2040 Comprehensive Plan. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Mayor Foster opened the public hearing on the 2021 Improvement Program. Nemmers presented the program. Diane Theobald of 1321 Holland Street phoned in with several questions regarding the Holland Street resurfacing project. Nemmers answered Ms. Theobald's questions. There was no other public comment received. Council Member Peters made a motion to close the public hearing. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion and the motion carried. Council Member Miller made a motion to adopt **Resolution 2021-10** ordering improvement and preparation of plans for the 2021 Improvement Program. Council Member Peters seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Hasek made a motion to approve **Resolution 2021-12** advertising the 2021-A Fairlakes Avenue construction project. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Hasek made a motion to approve **Resolution 2021-13** advertising the 2021-G Grant Street Watermain Replacement project. Council Member Peters seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Hasek made a motion to approve **Resolution 2021-14** declaring the official intent of the City of Fairmont to reimburse certain expenditures from the proceeds of bonds to be issued by the city. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Hoye presented the December 31, 2020 investment report.

Reynolds reported that in 2020, 166 building permits were issued for a value of 17.8 million dollars. This is consistent with 2019 and is good news for our community.

Downtown Revitalization continues to move forward. A meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. at SMEC to engage more community members to work on goals and plans for the downtown.

Reynolds announced that the county has more CARES Act money available and applications are on their website. There is a February 12th deadline to apply. If anyone has questions, they should contact the Chamber of Commerce.

Reynolds stated that citizens can now view all City Board and Commission agendas and meeting minutes on the City's website.

Mayor Foster reported that the HRA meeting was held by zoom and it was a presentation on sustainable affordable housing by Jacob Mans.

Councilor Hasek stated that the Public Utilities Commission talked about recent water main breaks. Councilor Hasek stated that the Airport Board talked about possible funds from COVID coming to the airport.

Councilor Lubenow reported that the library is now back open to the public. He also stated that the employee who is second in charge at the library will be retiring and this position will be posted.

Councilor Miller stated that Community Education and Recreation is celebrating 48 years and is interested in receiving stories from citizens on how CER affected their lives. Submissions are due March 15th. The Spring/Summer booklet is currently being worked on. She also reminded citizens that CER has snowshoes for rent.

Councilor Peters reported on FEDA stating that the Fairmont Area Lakes Marketing /Geofencing Campaign has been going very well. FEDA also approved four additional CARES Act loans.

At 6:35 p.m., Councilor Peters made a motion to close the meeting to the public pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.05, Subd. 3(c) regarding parcel number 232810050 and parcel number 230370310. Councilor Hasek seconded the motion and the motion carried.

At 7:55 p.m., Councilor Peters made a motion to end the closed session. Councilor Hasek seconded the motion and the motion carried.

A motion was made by Council Member Miller, seconded by Council Member Peters and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Deborah J. Foster, Mayor

ATTEST:

Patricia J. Monsen, City Clerk