

The minutes of the Fairmont City Council meeting held on Monday, February 8, 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 with limited capacity in City Hall and 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 Miller made a motion to approve the agenda with the removal of item 7.1 Public Hearing 2021 Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan, changing item 9.4 from an award to discussion of the new Public Works Facility, addition of item 9.7 discussion on proposed new day care and addition of item 9.8 discussion of other options for the new Public Works Facility. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Kawecki, Lubenow, Miller, Peters and Hasek all voted aye. No one voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion passed.

Mayor Foster proclaimed February 7 – 14, 2021 as Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week in the City of Fairmont. Hailee Greeley was present and spoke.

There was no public comment.

Council Member Lubenow made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Items on the consent agenda were: Minutes of the January 25, 2021 City Council Meeting; authorization to approve a new vacuum sweeper for the street department; and authorization to purchase a new lift station pump. Council Member Miller seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Lubenow, Miller, Peters, Hasek and Kawecki all voted aye. No one voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion passed.

Council Member Hasek made a motion to approve amended **Ordinance 2020-12** authorizing the sale of designated City owned lots via public auction and authorizing the City to sell 606 North Prairie Avenue for \$5,000 to M-Mar Properties, LLC. Council Member Lubenow seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Hasek, Kawecki, Lubenow, Miller and Peters all voted aye. No one voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion passed.

Council Member Hasek made a motion to approve **Resolution 2021-16** advertising the 2021-C seal coat construction project. Council Member Lubenow seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Kawecki, Lubenow, Miller, Peters and Hasek all voted aye. No one voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion passed.

Council Member Hasek made a motion to approve the Request for Proposals for the Sale by the City of the Senior Center Building located at 414 Downtown Plaza. Council Member Miller seconded the motion. Mayor Foster declared said motion passed.

Discussion was held regarding City Administrator Reynold's request for guidance from the council on communicating with community members.

Nemmers gave an update on the proposed new Public Works Facility. One hundred thirty-one bids were received. Nemmers will be presenting a summary of the bids at the February 22nd council meeting.

Council Member Lubenow made a motion to approve **Resolution 2021-19** awarding the Industrial Water Tower Coating Project, 2021-E, to Maguire Iron in the total of \$343,500. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Miller, Peter, Hasek, Kawecki and Lubenow all voted aye. No one voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion passed.

Council Member Miller made a motion to approve **Resolution 2021-15** application to the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority for a loan from the Clean Water Revolving Fund/Drinking Revolving Fund for the lime pond closure project. Council Member Lubenow seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Peters, Hasek, Kawecki, Lubenow and Miller all voted aye. No one voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion passed.

Upon Council Member Lubenow's request, discussion was held regarding a request from a citizen for a proposed new day care at 703 Cory Lane. The proposed usage as a day care is not an allowable use in the industrial zone. Reynolds stated that information has been provided to the citizen regarding the procedure and process to request rezoning of the property.

Upon Council Member Kawecki's request, discussion was held regarding considering using the Line Department and the property which is for sale on Marcus Street for the new Public Works Facility.

Nemmers reported that the Wastewater Department is working with the MPCA on updating their permit.

Hoye reported that sales from the Municipal Liquor Store were up 20% in 2020 from 2019. Monies from the Liquor Store have funded culture and recreation projects in Fairmont in the total amount of 13 million since its opening.

Reynolds stated that a public hearing will be held on February 24, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. for the 2021 Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan.

Reynolds shared that a part time Community Service Officer position has been posted on the City's website.

Mayor Foster stated that the Housing and Redevelopment Authority is looking at future funding for the committee and forming a Housing Trust Fund. They also changed lighting in the facility and received a rebate. Mayor Foster advised citizens that they can contact Julie Zarling at city hall regarding lighting rebates.

Council Member Hasek stated that Public Utilities Commission approved a solar reimbursement rate.

Council Member Kaweck reported on the Planning Commission stating that 32 conditional use and home occupation permits were up for renewal. One violation was noted, and the violator was given 90 days in which to bring his permit back into compliance.

Council Member Miller reported that Eric Snyder was a guest speaker at the Fairmont Economic Development Authority meeting, and he spoke on childcare and Prosper Martin County. Prosper Martin County is looking for childcare providers to be part of the first cohort. Those interested should contact Linsey Preuss at city hall. Prosper Martin County is also looking for Board/Committee members and anyone interested should contact Preuss.

A motion was made by Council Member Miller, seconded by Council Member Hasek and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Deborah J. Foster, Mayor

ATTEST:

Patricia J. Monsen, City Clerk