

The minutes of the Fairmont City Council meeting held on Monday, February 22, 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 Hasek made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Council Member Peters seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Chief Hunter introduced new Patrol Officer Parker Stevens and City Clerk Monsen gave Stevens his Oath of Office.

Chief Hunter presented the Fairmont Police Department 2020 Annual Report.

There was no public comment.

Council Member Miller made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Items on the consent agenda were: Minutes of the February 8, 2021 City Council Meeting; authorization to pay the February accounts payable; Renewal of the Consumption and Display License for the Chain of Lakes Yacht Club; Approval of a Tobacco License for IYS Ventures, LLC; Approval of 3.2% Off Sale Liquor License for IYS Ventures, LLC; Declare Excess Property; Approval of Professional Services Agreement with Scandia Consulting; and Approval of Preliminary and Final Plat for Dutch Creek Addition. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council held discussion on liquor license refunds due to closures mandated by Governor Waltz's COVID-19 mandatory shutdowns. A 25% reduction in fees was given in June 2020 at renewal. Council Member Peters made a motion to refund an additional 50% of the liquor license fees from 2020-2021 and to take the funding for the refunds from the liquor store fund. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Peters made a motion to approve **Resolution 2021-20**, awarding Phase 1 of the Lime Pond Closure Project, 2021-D to US Sitework in the total amount of \$654,220.00. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Hasek made a motion to approve **Resolution 2021-21**, awarding the 2021-G, Grant Street Watermain Replacement Project to Black Sheep Landscaping, LLP in the total amount of \$119,459. Council Member Lubenow seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Peters made a motion to approve **Resolution 2021-22**, awarding the Fairlakes Avenue Improvement Project, 2021-A to GM Contracting in the total amount of \$1,358,486.67. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Peters made a motion to approve **Resolution 2021-18**, awarding the contracts for the construction of the new Public Works Facility. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Hasek and Peters voted aye. Council Members Kawecki, Lubenow and Miller voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion failed.

Hoye presented the 2020 Aquatic Park Annual Report. Discussion was held about placing lifeguards at Gomsrud Park. Council Member Miller made a motion to place lifeguards on the Budd Lake side of Gomsrud Park, giving priority to having lifeguards at the Aquatic Park. Council Member Kawecki seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Kawecki, Lubenow, Miller and Peters all voted aye. Council Member Hasek voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion passed.

Council Member Lubenow made a motion that between November 1 and April 1 of each year, the City have a controlled burn at the tree recycling site, if conditions permit such burn. Council Member Kawecki seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Lubenow, Miller, Hasek and Kawecki all voted aye. Council Member Peters voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion passed.

Council Member Lubenow requested that the Council vote to determine if the Council, as a whole, would like a performance review of City Administrator Cathy Reynolds. Discussion was held and it was decided that a work session for strategic planning would be scheduled soon.

Discussion was held regarding selling a portion of parcel 230370310. Council Member Lubenow made a motion to consider selling the property. Council Member Peters seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Nemmers reported that there have been several watermain breaks and he thanked the Water Department and Street Department crews for all their work.

Administrator Reynolds reminded council and citizens of the Special Council meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 24 at 5:00 p.m. on the 2021 Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan and Bond Issuance. She also stated that there will be a Community Center Work Session on Monday, March 8th at 4:00 p.m. before the regularly scheduled council meeting.

Council Member Miller reported that CER is looking for human interest stories on how CER has impacted your life. Submittals will be received until March 15th. Miller also reported that she attended five sessions of a Virtual Winter Conference for CER. She enjoyed learning how much CER impacts cities and their citizens, young and old.

At 7:00 p.m., Council Member Peters made a motion to close the meeting to the public pursuant to State Statute 13D.0f, Subd. 3(C) regarding a portion of parcel number 230370310. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion and the motion carried.

At 7: 58 p.m., Council Member Miller made a motion to end the closed session. Council Member Peters seconded the motion and the motion passed.

At 8:03 p.m., Council went back into open session. Council Member Peters made a motion to allow staff to continue negotiations with Community Asset Development Group for the sale of a portion of parcel 230370310. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

A motion was made by Council Member Miller, seconded by Council Member Lubenow and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

Deborah J. Foster, Mayor

ATTEST:

Patricia J. Monsen, City Clerk