

The minutes of the Fairmont City Council meeting held on Monday, March 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 Rahrack.

Council Member Peters made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Chief Hunter presented the Fairmont Police Body Camera Program Biennial Audit.

During open discussion, Preston Vaughn of 311 North Prairie Avenue expressed concerns about things taking place at Veteran's Park. He suggested that adding more lighting to the park may help to deter unwanted activities occurring in the park. He also expressed concern about how fast vehicles drive on Prairie Avenue in this area which has two bus stops and many children.

Alex Young-Williams of 107 Downtown Plaza gave an update on what he has been working on in the community. Young-Williams is a community activator with Lead for Minnesota and has been closely working with Project 1590.

Garth Carlson of Winnebago, MN and Jon Walters of Sherburn, MN addressed the Council and stated that they have been working with City Staff to develop multi-family housing and a campground in the City. They expressed an interest in the Day Farm property for a potential campground.

Jon Omgig of 523 Budd Lake Drive spoke regarding agenda item 9.1 Consideration of Letter of Intent with Community Asset Development Group to purchase land and develop market rate, multifamily housing on a portion of the Day Farm. Omgig felt that the proposed project does not meet zoning or the comprehensive plan.

Council Member Peters made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Items on the consent agenda were: Minutes of the February 22, 2021 City Council Meeting; Minutes of the February 24, 2021 Special City Council Meeting; **Resolution 2021-23**, amending **Resolution 2019-14**, repayment of entitlement funds to the City of Orr; **Resolution 2021-24**, amending **Resolution 2019-15**, repayment of entitlement funds to the City of Sauk Centre. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Linsey Preuss, Economic Development Coordinator presented the Council with a Letter of Intent from Community Asset Development Group to purchase land and develop market rate, multifamily housing. The proposed land was part of the Day Farm. Investor Dave Pokorney of Chaska spoke about the proposed project. No motion was made by Council.

Judd Schultz, Minnesota Valley Action Council Housing Director gave an update on the 2020 City of Fairmont Comprehensive Rehabilitation Loan Program. Council Member Miller made a motion to approve **Resolution 2021-25**, establishing the policies and procedures for the administration of loans. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Miller made a motion to approve the bid from Horizon Commercial Pool Supply for the 2021 Aquatic Park Capital Projects in the amount of \$103,694.20. Council Member Peters seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Lubenow made a motion to approve **Resolution 2021-27**, awarding the sealcoat projects, Project 2021-C to Asphalt Preservation Company, Inc. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Hasek made a motion to approve **Resolution 2021-26**, advertise for bids for the 2021-F, Dutch Creek Habitat Restoration and Nitrate Removal Project. Council Member Lubenow seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Discussion was held on the Public Works Facility needs. John Pristash, Sr. Project Manager from Kraus-Anderson presented requested options to the Council. Individual council members will schedule tours of the existing Public Works Facility with Nick Lardy and the topic will be brought back at the March 22nd council meeting for discussion.

Nemmers stated that Engineering has been busy getting contracts in place for the upcoming projects. The Streets and Parks Department have been trimming boulevard trees and the street sweeper is out. Crews have been doing work at the SMEC building and the elevator upgrade at City Hall is in process now.

Reynolds advised that the City will be holding an auction on March 30th to sell five lots the City received by tax forfeiture. The 2020 tax forfeiture property list should be coming out shortly and the City will review it for possible forfeitures. The City will be leasing part of the SMEC building to CER.

Mayor Foster reported that she was unable to attend the HRA meeting, but they are looking into low interest loan programs. HRA will also be working with Reynolds to learn more about property tax forfeiture process.

Councilor Hasek reported that the Public Utilities Commission talked about the Lime Pond Closure project.

Councilor Kaweck reported that at the Planning Commission was to hear a home occupation permit application, however the application was withdrawn. They also discussed if funds were available to hire a consultant to rewrite the zoning ordinances.

At 7:34 p.m., Council Member Miller made a motion to close the meeting to discuss labor negotiations pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.03. Council Member Peters seconded the motion and the motion carried. Closed session began at 7:40 p.m. At 7:49 p.m., Council Member Peters made a motion to end the closed session. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

A motion was made by Council Member Miller, seconded by Council Member Hasek and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Deborah J. Foster, Mayor

ATTEST:

Patricia J. Monsen, City Clerk