

The minutes of the Fairmont City Council meeting held on Monday, April 26, 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 and Michele Miller were present. Council Member Bruce Peters was attending the meeting by teleconferencing. Council Member Randy Lubenow was absent. 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 Rahrck.

Council Member Hasek made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Council Member Miller seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Hasek, Kawecki and Miller all voted aye. No one voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion passed.

Mayor Foster proclaimed May 2-8, 2021 as National Travel and Tourism Week in the City of Fairmont. Visit Fairmont's Executive Director Stephanie Busiahn and Board Member Jason Subbert were present and spoke.

Mayor Foster proclaimed April 30, 2021 as Arbor Day and the month of May 2021 as Arbor Month in the City of Fairmont. A celebration tree planting will be held on April 30th at Memory Park at 1:30 p.m. with students from the Fourth Grade Class of St. John Vianney School.

Economic Development Coordinator Linsey Preuss presented the 2021 Quarter One Community Development Report.

No public comment was received during open discussion.

Council Member Miller made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Kawecki, Miller, Peters and Hasek all voted aye. No one voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion passed. Items on the Consent Agenda were: Minutes from the April 12, 2021 City Council Meeting; Approval of the payment of the April 2021 bills; Authorization for the Mayor and City Attorney to sign FAA Grant Agreement Number 3-27-0029-020-2021 for airport funding; and Approval of Taxi License (one vehicle) for Crystal Gruber, pending a satisfactory background check.

Council Member Hasek made a motion to approve **Ordinance 2021-01**, Sale of 414 Downtown Plaza. Council Member Miller seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Hasek, Kawecki, Miller and Peters all voted aye. No one voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion passed.

Council Member Miller made a motion to approve the Purchase Agreement for 414 Downtown Plaza, allowing the City to sell the property to Fairmont Brewing Company, LLC. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Miller, Peters, Hasek and Kawecki all voted aye. No one voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion passed.

Jessica Green of Northland Securities presented the financing plans for the 2021A and 2021B Bond Issues. Council Member Miller made a motion to approve **Resolution 2021-34**, providing for the issuance and sale of \$3,505,000 general obligation improvement and refunding bonds, Series 2021A, pledging for the security thereof special assessments and levying a tax for the payment thereof. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members 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 **Resolution 2021-35**, providing for the issuance and sale of \$6,805,000 general obligation capital improvement plan bonds, series 2021B and levying a tax for the payment thereof. Council Member Miller seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Peters, Hasek, Kawecki and Miller all voted aye. No one voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion passed.

Council Member Miller made a motion to approve **Resolution 2021-33**, awarding the 2021-B, Resurface and Overlay Projects to Minnesota Paving and Materials from Mankato, Minnesota. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Peters, Hasek, Kawecki and Miller all voted aye. No one voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion passed.

Council Member Miller made a motion to approve **Resolution 2021-32**, increasing license fees. Council Member Peters seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Kawecki, Miller and Peters all voted aye. Council Member Hasek voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion passed. The fee increases will become effective for all license renewals in 2022.

Nemmers reported that construction has begun on Fairlakes Avenue and a closure will be happening in the near future for underground utilities. Details for the closure will be forthcoming. The bridge deck was poured today on the I-90 pedestrian trail. The new Public Works Building will be started this week. The Parks Department has been working very hard on getting the parks ready to open. City wide cleanup coupons will be being mailed out the middle of May.

Hoye announced that the pool will be opening on June 4th. Staff is working to find lifeguards. If anyone is interested in being a lifeguard, please contact Betsy Steuber.

Reynolds reported that the Park Survey has had 800 responses and that the survey closes on April 30th. She encouraged citizens to take the survey. The City held a strategic planning session on April 13th setting goals and priorities. A summary report from the session will be out soon for all to see. She also announced that the new Senior Place at the SMEC building, room 127 will be opening on May 3rd and will be open Mondays – Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Council Member Hasek reported that new lights are being installed in the airport parking lot and air conditioning is being put in the terminal.

Council Member Kawecki reported that the Safety Council talked about adding crosswalks at two intersections near Veteran's Park. They talked about adding more lights in Veteran's Park and Ward Park. Discussion was also held to possibly collaborate with the County regarding the safety of the intersection at Albion Avenue and Lake Aires Road. Kawecki reported that she was sworn in at Region 9, but that she was not able to attend the meeting.

Reynolds read a report from Council Member Lubenow regarding the Library Board meeting. The Library Board approved closing at 6:00 p.m. beginning May 1st, due to the low usage in the summer. The 2020 Annual Report was approved. The Park Board discussed the docks and parks opening for the summer, the Ward Park remodel and that CER will be moving into the SMEC building on July 1st. CER is looking to hire a new director, as Roni Dauer will be retiring. The Library Board wishes to thank Roni for her many years of service.

A motion was made by Council Member Hasek, seconded by Council Member Miller, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Deborah J. Foster, Mayor

ATTEST:

Patricia J. Monsen, City Clerk