

The minutes of the Fairmont City Council meeting held on Monday, May 24, 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 with the removal of item 9.2. Council Member Lubenow seconded the motion and the motion carried.

During Public Discussion/Comment, Brittany Juhl of 70 Main Street East, Trimont, Minnesota spoke about the need for more rental housing and day care in the City of Fairmont. When she moved to this area, she was unable to find either in Fairmont. She also spoke in favor of a Recreational Center to provide activities for kids in our community.

Jay Maynard of 1831 Oakwood Drive thanked the council and complimented them on working collaboratively and encouraged the council to keep it up.

Randy Olson of 734 Cleveland Avenue, Winnebago, Minnesota addressed the council with concerns of rental policies in Fairmont. He shared a situation he and his daughter had with Mid America Properties in Fairmont and encouraged the council to make changes to the rental housing ordinance to help alleviate these types of problems.

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 May 10, 2021 City Council Meeting; Accounts Payable May 2021; Event Permit for Opera House to hold an event downtown on May 29, 2021; Event Permit for Fairmont Awards to hold a sidewalk sale with food truck June 3-5, 2021; Fireworks Display Permit for J&M Displays for the July 4th fireworks; Event Permit for Easy Automation to hold a company picnic with food trucks at Gomsrud Park on August 13, 2021; Transient Merchant Permit for TNT Fireworks to sell fireworks in Walmart parking lot; Renewal of the 2021/2022 alcoholic beverage licenses; and approval of advertising for bids for CSAH 39 Sanitary Sewer and Watermain Extensions.

Thomas Olinger with Abdo, Eick & Meyes presented the 2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Council Member Peters made a motion to accept the 2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Council Member Lubenow seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Reynolds presented the City Strategic Plan, which includes a new mission statement, vision, goals and direction for the City. Council Member Miller made a motion to adopt the City Strategic Plan. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Nemmers gave an update on all the current constructions projects happening in the city. Construction on Fairlakes Avenue continues with Woodland Avenue still closed, but it will be reopening shortly. Concrete work is being done on the roundabout at Downtown Plaza and Blue Earth Avenue and Lake Avenue will be getting the final lift coat. Lime Pond closure construction will begin this week. The I-90 trail project continues. The concrete work will begin on the Public Works Facility next week. Citizens may monitor the progress of the Public Works Facility on the City of Fairmont's website.

Council Member Lubenow asked Troy to explain what was happening with the dirt from the site of the Public Works Facility. Nemmers stated that the contractor has an agreement with the landowner across the street from the site to move the dirt there as fill. The landowner intends to farm the land once filling is done.

Reynolds advised that Building Official Terry Tonneson is retiring and his last day is May 31st. Reynolds wishes him well. Moving forward, the city will be looking to contract work to help this summer and will be evaluating the position.

A dedication of the Richard S. Bradley Memorial Park will be held on Friday, May 28th at 10:30 a.m.

Council Member Lubenow asked Reynolds if the Rental Housing Ordinance is going to be reviewed and Reynolds stated that she has moved this project to be a priority and has already sent it to the City Attorney for review and comment. Discussion was also held regarding inspection of rental units.

Council Member Hasek reported that the Airport is looking at maintenance items to be repaired and at the Public Utilities Commission meeting they reviewed the audit report.

Council Member Lubenow advised that the Library Board voted to remove the time limit at the library. This will need to be approved by the County Commissioners. The library is trying to get back to normal operations. He also reported on Park Board and stated that all shelter houses and restrooms are now open. If anyone is wanting to rent a shelter house, they can reserve them through city hall.

Council Member Miller reported that Community Education and Recreation received a \$20,000 Early Child Initiative Grant and are looking at different things to do for the youth in our community. There have been a lot of GED enrollments. The CER offices will be moving to the Southern Minnesota Educational Campus on Park Street the end of June and it is expected that the move will be complete by July 1st.

Council Member Peters reported that FEDA received an update on the Geofencing campaign and that the plan for the new brewery is proceeding.

A motion was made by Council Member Hasek, seconded by Council Member Miller, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

Deborah J. Foster, Mayor

ATTEST:

Patricia J. Monsen, City Clerk