

The minutes of the Fairmont City Council meeting held on Monday, June 14, 2021 at the City Hall Council Chambers.

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 Rahrck.

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

During Public Discussion/Comment, Amy Long of 3819 Cedar Creek gave a presentation by the Community Center Committee and the Fairmont Hockey Association.

Jay Maynard of 1831 Oakwood Drive spoke in favor of the Community Center.

Alex Young Williams of 107 Downtown Plaza invited the public to the Multicultural Festival and Vaccination Clinic to be held on Downtown Plaza June 26, 2021. The event will include Food Truck Vendors, musical groups and activities for kids. The event is sponsored by Community Education and Recreation.

Ruth Cyphers of 103 Oxford urged the City Council to support the community center.

Marge Johnston of 506 Day Street questioned the Council on the funding for the community center and where the extra funding would be coming from and how the citizens would pay for it.

Siri Kabrick of 202 Woodland Avenue spoke in favor of the community center.

Council Member Kawecki presented a petition from a Downtown Business Owner. The petition was to have the City Hall bathrooms open to the public on Saturdays and was signed by 600 people.

Council Member Miller made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Council Member Peters seconded the motion and the motion carried. Items on the Consent Agenda were: Minutes from the May 24, 2021 City Council Meeting; Event Permit for CER to hold a Multicultural Festival and Vaccination Clinic on Downtown Plaza on June 26, 2021; Event Permit for Fairmont Lions to hold their annual Fly in Breakfast at the Airport on June 27, 2021; Request from Light Noise and Smoke of Fairmont for a donation to the July 4th Fireworks in the amount of \$1,500.00; One Day Temporary On-Sale Liquor License for Martin County Chapter Pheasants Forever for August 28, 2021; Change Order No. 1 with Barr Engineering on the Dutch Creek Habitat Project in the amount of \$47,350.00; Declare a Hach 850 Colorimeter as excess property to be sold; and Authorize the purchase of used Case 1650L Dozer.

Mayor Foster opened the public hearing for proposed **Ordinance 2021-02**, an ordinance amending **Ordinance 2020-08** establishing a rural and urban service district within the municipal limits of the City of Fairmont. No public comment was received. Council Member

Peters made a motion to close the public hearing. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding the Community Center. Council Member Lubenow made a motion to give City Staff the ability to move forward with Path 1 as presented by the Community Center Committee. Council Member Peters seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Kawecki, Lubenow and Peters voted aye. Council Members Miller and Hasek voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion passed. (Community Center Committee presentation handout, dated June 14, 2021, is hereby incorporated in these minutes. "Path 1" Council chooses to honor December 2019 commitment.)

Council Member Lubenow made a motion to accept the proposal from Press Gold Group for HR system including payroll and timekeeping. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding curbside pickup for the City-wide clean-up. Council consensus was to come up with a plan to help people in need by utilizing volunteer service organizations for the September 2021 clean-up opportunities. The plan will include how to inform all residents of this service and to get commitment from the service organizations.

Discussion was held regarding the city hiring or contracting for structural engineer services. Reynolds stated that by doing this, the city would assume liability. Council Member Lubenow wanted more facts and data on how the city would assume liability.

District 23A Representative Bjorn Olson from Elmore, MN was present at the Council meeting and introduced himself.

Discussion was held regarding the time limit for citizens to speak during public comment. Consensus was to keep the current time limit of three minutes in place for now, but to bring it back for discussion in the future, if the council feels this needs to be adjusted.

Discussion was held regarding the Rental Housing Ordinance. Staff is currently researching and updating the existing rental ordinance. Once a recommended draft is prepared and reviewed by the City Attorney, it will be brought before council for review and public hearing.

Discussion was held on the potential sale of the Aquatic Park. Council Member Kawecki made a motion to look into selling the Aquatic Park. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding camping within city limits.

Nemmers reported that the pavement markings on the Lake Avenue construction project are being completed. Construction continues on the Margarete Street trail, Fairlakes Avenue and the Public Works Building. The Grant Street watermain project will begin next week. Painting of the Industrial Water Towers is currently happening. Reminder that City-wide clean-up will be tomorrow from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Marcus Street.

Hoye stated that he has been working on a Request for Proposals for a five-year contract for auditing services. Hoye is hoping to have the proposals back to the council at the August 9th council meeting.

Reynolds advised that she and Chief Hunter had a meeting with the Martin County Justice Center Committee to discuss the new Justice Center and the relationship with the Fairmont Police Department. It is the City's intent to continue to share services and technology. A Memorandum of Understanding will be prepared and brought to the council for consideration.

The League of Minnesota Cities will be holding a virtual Annual Conference on June 23 through June 25. If council members are not registered yet but would like to participate, please contact Cathy.

The City will be hosting "Conversations with the City". This will be a time for citizens to meet with staff to ask questions, get answers and for staff to listen to citizens' concerns. The first event will be held at Gomsrud Park on June 17th from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The events will be held every other month through this year and will be in different Wards.

An informational work session on TIF and Tax Abatement is planned for July 12th from 4:30 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. FEDA and the HRA will be invited to attend this work session.

Mayor Foster reported that the HRA had general discussion on foreclosures, low interest loan programs and property purchases. Linsey Preuss, Economic Development Coordinator, attended the HRA meeting to invite them to the TIF and Tax Abatement work session.

Council Member Hasek reported on the Airport Board. The airport will be hosting the Lion's Fly-in Breakfast on June 27th.

Council Member Kawecky reported that the Planning Commission met on June 1st and held a public hearing on the conditional use permit for 440 Winnebago Avenue and 1313 North Hampton, Car Parts Direct. The recommendation was for staff to not support the conditional use permit, due to noncompliance. A work session on this is scheduled for June 15th at 5:30 p.m. and the public is welcomed to attend.

Council Member Lubenow reported on the Library Board. Most of the meeting was discussion on the Trimont branch, which has a job opening. The Martin County Library will be opening back up for kids' activities in the basement and the large open area.

Council Member Lubenow also reported that the Board of Zoning Appeals reviewed and approved some surface changes for the Marina Lodge.

Council Member Miller reported on Community Education and Recreation. CER thanked Roni Dauer for her 47 years of service and welcomed Stephanie Busiahn as the new CER Director. Mat Mahoney spoke at the meeting. Summer activities have started. Activities with Fairmont Early Childhood initiative are underway. Check CER's calendar for many free family activities. GED enrollments are on the rise.

Council Member Miller reported on FEDA. An offer on a lot at Whitetail Ridge was discussed. Iowa Lakes Community College will be offering industry training classes at SMEC.

Council Member Peters reported on Visit Fairmont. Visit Fairmont wishes Stephanie Busiahn the best with CER. Visit Fairmont contracted with a company named Shrpa. Shrpa brings a family into Fairmont and gives them pointers on what there is to do in Fairmont. The family then reports on their visit to Fairmont. The results of the visit can be viewed at: <https://shrpa.com/community/fairmontmn>.

At 7:39 p.m., Council Member Miller made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.05, Subd. 3(d) for discussions regarding city hall security. Council Member Peters seconded the motion and the motion carried. The Council went into closed session at 7:47 p.m. At 8:10 p.m., Council Member Hasek made a motion to end the closed session. Council Member Lubenow seconded the motion and the motion carried.

At 8:20 p.m., Council Member Peters made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13C.05, Subd. 3(a) for the one-year performance evaluation of City Administrator Reynolds. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion and the motion carried. At 9:12 p.m., Council Member Miller made a motion to end the closed session. Council Member Peters seconded the motion and the motion carried.

At 9:14 p.m. the Fairmont City Council was back in open session. Council Member Hasek made a motion to approve a 3.5% pay increase for City Administrator Cathy Reynolds. Council Member Peters seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Lubenow, Hasek, Miller and Peters voted aye. Council Member Kawecky voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion passed.

A motion was made by Council Member Miller, seconded by Council Member Peters, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Deborah J. Foster, Mayor

ATTEST:

Patricia J. Monsen, City Clerk