

The minutes of the Fairmont City Council meeting held on Monday, July 26, 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, Assistant Finance Officer Chris Ziegler, Police Chief Mike Hunter and City Clerk Patricia J. Monsen.

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

Marty Siefert of the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities was present and gave an end of the year legislative update.

During Public Discussion/Comment, Carter Leiding, 936 Liberty Lane; Carter Mosloski, 224 240th Avenue; Parker Mosloski, Granada; Caleb Petschke, 912 Hengen Street; Parker Mathiason, 124 Parkwood Place; and Nick Segar, 721 Summit Drive appeared before the council and spoke in favor of keeping goose hunting and archery deer hunting on agricultural zoned land within the city limits.

Council Member Miller made a motion to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. Council Member Peters seconded the motion and the motion carried. Items on the Consent Agenda were: Minutes from the July 12, 2021 City Council Meeting; July 2021 Accounts Payable; Event Permit for Red Rock Center for a band at the Sylvania Band Shell on July 29, 2021; Event Permit for Cedar Creek Disc Golf Association to hold Cedar Creek Open on August 20-22, 2021; Event Permit for Fairmont Soccer Association for Soccer Fest on August 21, 2021; Event Permit for Fairmont Rotary Club to hold Rotary Brews & BBQ on September 25, 2021; and Temporary On-sale Intoxicating Liquor License for Fairmont Rotary Club for September 25, 2021.

Council Member Miller made a motion to approve **Amended Resolution 2021-38**, creation of a Community Center Advisory Board. Council Member Peters seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Peters made a motion to appoint Lisa Kuhl to the Community Center Board to replace Mike Anderson. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Linsey Preuss, Economic Development Coordinator, introduced and explained a Letter of Understanding from Community Asset Development Group. Council Member Lubenow made a motion to approve the Letter of Understanding with Community Asset Development Group to develop market rate, multifamily housing. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Assistant Finance Director Chris Ziegler explained that the City of Fairmont will receive approximately \$1.1 Million in Federal American Rescue Plan Act funds to offset costs associated with the pandemic and to ease burdens on citizens. Staff is proposing to establish a Customer Assistance Program using a portion of the funds. Council Member Lubenow made a motion to approve a contract with Minnesota Valley Action Council (MVAC) to provide a customer

assistance program for past due residential utility bills using \$100,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) proceeds. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Miller made a motion to approve contracting with Alpha Wireless for an access control system for the Southern Minnesota Educational Campus building. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding hunting in city limits. Council Member Lubenow made a motion to continue goose and deer archery hunting in city limits. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried. Staff was also directed to make changes to the City Code adding these provisions.

Council Member Hasek made a motion to approve **Resolution 2021-39**, updating the City of Fairmont's Data Practices Policy. Council Member Peters seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Hasek made a motion to approve a Professional Service Agreement for Wastewater Facility Improvements. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Peters made a motion to approve **Resolution 2021-40**, for submittal of a grant application to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for Point Source Implementation Grant funds. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Nemmers gave a construction update. He also reminded citizens of the state-wide drought warning and for citizens to conserve water.

Reynolds informed citizens that on August 26th from 5:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m. Conversations with the City will be held at Wards Park. This is a question-and-answer opportunity for citizens to engage with City Staff.

Reynolds stated staff is hoping to have the new payroll system implementation started for the Fourth Quarter. There are a couple policy changes that need to be made for this implementation.

The Organization Review and job descriptions have been ongoing and are about 50% complete. This has a ten-year focus to see where we are today, and what the future needs are. It is also a part of the Compensation Classification Study that will also be done. The goal is to have this complete Spring of 2022 for 2023 budgeting purposes.

Reynolds reminded everyone that there will be a Budget Workshop on August 16th at 5:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Reynolds stated that the Liquor Store will be opening on Sundays again beginning August 8th.

Council Member Hasek reported that the Public Utilities Commission discussed the use of ARPA funds to assist with delinquent utility bills and to work with MCVA.

Council Member Hasek reported that the Airport has sold twice as much fuel this year as compared to last year. The Airport will also be receiving some CARES funding and discussions have been held regarding the use of those funds.

Council Member Lubenow reported that the meeting room at the library is now open. The Children's Librarian resigned, and that position will be open.

Council Member Lubenow stated that the Park Board has been discussing potential projects, such as adding canopies at the Winnebago Sports Complex and at the Soccer Field concession stand areas. They also talked about adding an open-air shelter at Veterans Park along with the new lighting being planned.

Council Member Miller reported that FEDA unanimously supports the proposed housing plan with Community Asset Development Group. There is an opening on FEDA and interested citizens can find the application on the City of Fairmont's website. FEDA has been looking at updating the City's logo and options will be brought to council next month. They also approved selling a lot in the Whitetail Ridge subdivision.

A motion was made by Council Member Hasek, seconded by Council Member Miller, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Deborah J. Foster, Mayor

ATTEST:

Patricia J. Monsen, City Clerk