

The minutes of the Fairmont City Council meeting held on Monday, September 13, 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 City Attorney Mark Rahrick.

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

Alissa Oeljenbuns, Philanthropy Officer with Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) gave an update on SMIF's activities in the Fairmont area and requested continued support for 2022.

Officer Shannon Bass was recognized for his 20 years of service with the Fairmont Police Department.

Nemmers shared that the City of Fairmont was awarded the Dave Neiman Memorial Source Water Protection Award by the Minnesota Rural Water Association and Minnesota Department of Health for efforts to identify and reduce nitrates affecting the Fairmont water supply.

No public comment was received.

Council Member Hasek made a motion to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried. Items on the Consent Agenda were: Minutes from the August 23, 2021 City Council Meeting; and approval of an Event Permit for the Fairmont High School Homecoming Parade scheduled for September 24, 2021.

Council Member Peters made a motion to approve the Conditional Use Permit for Kwik Trip to expand a motor fuel station as approved by the Planning Commission. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Miller made a motion to adopt **Resolution 2021-41**, declaring costs for the 2021 Improvement Program and ordering the assessment roll to be prepared. Council Member Peters seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Hasek made a motion to adopt **Resolution 2021-42**, a resolution calling for a public hearing scheduled for Monday, October 11, 2021, on the proposed assessments of the 2021 improvement program. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Discussion was held on dredging Dutch Creek. Council Member Kawecki made a motion to begin the permitting process and core sampling at the mouth of Dutch Creek. Council Member Lubenow seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Kawecki and Lubenow voted aye. Council Members Hasek, Miller and Peters voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion failed. Council Member Lubenow made a motion to recommend staff get a quote to begin the

permitting process and core sampling at the mouth of Dutch Creek. Council Member Kawecki seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Kawecki and Lubenow voted aye. Council Members Miller, Peters and Hasek voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion failed.

Council Member Peters made a motion to authorize staff to proceed with hiring a Water Superintendent and a Wastewater Superintendent. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion. On roll call vote: Council Members Miller and Peters voted aye. Council Members Lubenow, Hasek and Kawecki voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion failed.

Nemmers stated that the Amber Lake boat ramp and parking lot should be completed next week. Work on the Public Works Facility continues and is currently \$270,000 under budget. The final lift has been completed Fairlakes Avenue. Seed and sodding are currently happening, and the project should be completed soon. Installation of storm sewer is happening on Holland Street. The decommission of the Lime Ponds are moving into Phase III and should be finishing up this Fall. The Dutch Creek Habitat project continues with the driveway being installed and construction will be moving into the bioreactor area in the next couple of weeks.

Hoye stated that the City has assisted 70 utility customers who were behind in their utilities through the Public Utility Assistance Program with Minnesota Valley Action Council. There are still funds available and anyone interested should contact the City or Minnesota Valley Action Council.

Reynolds shared that the City would be hosting Conversations with the City on October 21st from 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at Veterans Park. In case of inclement weather, the event will be held at the Southern Minnesota Educational Campus.

Reynolds stated that at the September 27th City Council meeting, a public hearing will be held on a revised Rental Housing Ordinance and new Vacant Building Ordinance. The draft ordinances may be viewed on the City's website.

Mayor Foster reported that the HRA passed a flat rate increase resolution, a 2022 budget resolution, a contract for tree removal in 2022 and voted to go smoke free beginning January 1, 2022.

Council Member Kawecki reported that the Planning Commission reviewed and approved the Kwik Trip Conditional Use Permit. The Commission also reviewed the proposed Rental Housing Ordinance and Vacant Building Ordinance.

Council Member Miller reported that the Community Center Advisory Board meet and discussed the RFP for a Construction Manager and timelines. They are hoping to have a recommendation to the council for a Construction Manager at the November 8th city council meeting. They are planning on doing an RFP for Architect services a few weeks later so that the Construction Manager can be involved with the selection process. They are hoping to go out for construction bids in January 2023. The amount of \$30,000 is the figure they are utilizing for the project. There is a lot of fundraising that needs to occur, and the final design will be driven by their budget.

Council Member Miller reported that most of the summer programs with CER are wrapping up and the Fall activities have begun. CER has moved to the Southern Minnesota Educational Campus at 115 South Park Street and a ribbon cutting will be held on September 15th to celebrate this move. The Fall brochures will be hitting citizen's mailboxes the first week in October. There are many rooms available for rent at the SMEC building and citizens should contact CER if interested.

Council Member Peters reported that Visit Fairmont is still in search of a Director.

A motion was made by Council Member Peters, seconded by Council Member Hasek and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

Deborah J. Foster, Mayor

ATTEST:

Patricia J. Monsen, City Clerk