

The minutes of the Fairmont City Council meeting held on Monday, March 14, 2022, 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 Rahrack via telephone.

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

Mayor Foster proclaimed March 2022 as Heaven's Table Food Shelf Month in the City of Fairmont. Greta Lintleman, Board Chair; Deb Adams, Board Treasurer and Sue Redman, Board Member were in attendance. Redman provided information about Heaven's Table Food Shelf.

During Open Discussion, Bill Cieslinski of 517 Independence Drive spoke of concerns he has with the proposed community center. Richard Bradley, Jr. of 601 Shoreacres Drive spoke about the Total Cost of Ownership of a community center and gave the city council a handout he had prepared.

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 February 28, 2022 city council meeting, approval of an Event Permit for the Borderline Cruisers Car Club to hold their Downtown Car Show on June 11, 2022; approval of PO# 14188 and PO# 14189 for a new dump/plow truck chassis and equipment; and approval of PO# 14171 purchase of pad mount metering cabinet.

Mayor Foster opened the public hearings on five proposed Ordinances from the Fairmont Charter Commission (Ordinance 2022-01 Amending the City Charter Ward System; Ordinance 2022-02 Amending the City Charter Form of Government; Ordinance 2022-03 Amending the City Charter Section 2.06 The Mayor; Ordinance 2022-04 Amending the City Charter Investigation of City Affairs; Ordinance 2022-05 Amending the City Charter Section 2.10 City Administrator Appointment and Qualifications; and Ordinance 2022-06 Amending the City Charter Section 2.15, City Clerk). Reynolds reviewed the proposed ordinances. Charter Commission Member Dale Martens gave an overview of the proposed Charter Commission changes. During the public hearing, Jay Maynard of 1831 Oakwood spoke in opposition to all of the proposed ordinances. Richard Bradley, Jr. of 601 Shoreacres Drive asked if the Charter Commission had Rules of Order. Bill Cieslinski of 517 Independence Drive questioned the need for a change to the current Ward System. A motion was made by Council Member Peters to close the public hearing. Council Member Lubenow seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The Council heard an appeal of the Board of Zoning Appeals decision to deny a variance request by Troy and Jadee Menke of 2319 Albion Avenue to place a shipping container on an area of land. Menke is requesting a variance to allow the container to be placed two feet from the ordinary high-water level of the lake, where 50 feet is normally required and a zero foot set back from Albion Avenue right-of-way, where 30 feet is normally required. Planner and Zoning

Official Peter Bode reviewed the variance request with the council. Troy Menke explained his requested variance and his proposed project. Daniel Girolamo, Area Hydrologist with Minnesota Department of Natural Resources was on the telephone and answered various questions concerning the proposed project. Council Member Miller made a motion to table this matter until the April 11, 2022 City Council meeting. Council Member Kawecky seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Miller made a motion to approve **Resolution 2022-09** authorizing the advertising for bids on the 2022-A CIPP sanitary sewer lining project. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Peters made a motion to approve the interfund transfers for 2020 as listed on an attached schedule. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Peters made a motion to approve **Resolution 2022-10** designating fund balances for specific purposes. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding hiring a Community Development Director and then hiring an Economic Development Coordinator versus the other way around.

Nemmers reported that construction on the new public works building is coming to a close and equipment start up is happening this week. The Yard Waste area has seen significant clean up with two weeks of burning, hauling away large logs and wood chipping. The Airport will be receiving additional funding due to the Infrastructure Bill and also the City has been advised by MnDOT that they are looking at replacing the ILS System (landing system) at the airport. This will be approximately a million-dollar project with the State doing most of the work, but since this is an unbudgeted item, it will be coming to the council for approval.

Reynolds reported that the Request for Proposals for the sale of the Aquatic Park time period has closed and the City did not receive any proposals or inquiries. The City is moving forward with plans to open the Aquatic Park. The City will be posting a position for a Pool Manager tomorrow.

Posting and recruiting for seasonal park and pool workers will be done in the next week or so. Applications for employment are on the City's website.

A posting is out for an Economic Development Coordinator and is set to close on March 30th.

Reynolds gave an update on the Community Center.

Council Member Kawecky reported that the library's meetings are now open to the public and there was a good turnout.

Council Member Lubenow reported that the Community Center Advisory Board talked mostly about the survey, and they hope a lot of people complete the surveys. At the HRA, they talked about a land purchase and will be doing more research as to what the land would be used for and looking for investors and contractors.

Council Member Miller reported that FEDA approved a CARES Act Loan and a Federal Grant Application. They also discussed Succession Planning.

Council Member Peters stated that the BZA approved a variance request from the Dairy Queen.

A motion was made by Council Member Peters, seconded by Council Member Hasek and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Deborah J. Foster, Mayor

ATTEST:

Patricia J. Monsen, City Clerk