

The minutes of the Fairmont City Council meeting held on Monday, May 23, 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.

Finance Director Hoye presented the 2021 Aquatic Park Annual Report. Hoye thanked Betsy Steuber and Aquatic Park staff. The pool will be opening on June 3rd.

City Administrator Reynolds introduced summer administration intern Derek Hughes.

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

During Open Discussion, Leslie Walkowiak of 1378 Oak Beach Drive spoke on behalf of the City of Lakes Garden Club and their upcoming Garden Party/Plant Swap to be held on June 11, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at Lincoln Park.

Paul Sandoz of 405 South Hampton voiced his concerns about the ½ cents sales tax and the use of the funds for the proposed Community Center.

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 May 9, 2022 city council meeting; payment of the May 2022 accounts payable; Event Permit for New Ulm B.A.S.S. Fishing Club to hold a fishing tournament at Gomsrud Park on May 29, 2022; Event Permit for Red Rock Center for the Arts to hold a small concert in Lincoln Park on June 16, 2022; Off Premises Sale of Intoxicating Liquor for a Community Festival, Interlaken Heritage Days on June 10 and 11, 2022; Temporary On-Sale Liquor License for St. John Vianney Church to hold an event on the church property located at 901 South Prairie Avenue on September 25, 2022.

A hearing for an alcohol compliance check failure by the Channel Inn was held. No comment was received. Council Member Miller made a motion to adopt **Resolution 2022-22**, imposing a civil penalty upon the Channel Inn. Council Member Lubenow seconded the motion and the motion carried.

A hearing for a tobacco compliance check failure by IYS Ventures, LLC, d/b/a I Mart Stores was held. No comment was received. Council Member Miller made a motion to adopt **Resolution 2022-27**, imposing a civil penalty upon IYS Ventures, LLC, d/b/a I Mart Stores. Council Member Lubenow seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Mayor Foster gave a summary of the closed session held on May 9, 2022, pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.05, Subd. 3(a), for the annual performance evaluation of City Administrator Cathy Reynolds. Prior to the closed session, all council members and eight staff members were asked to complete a written evaluation evaluating performance in the following areas: individual

characteristics, professional skills, relations with council, policy execution, communication and reporting, citizen relations, staffing, supervision, fiscal management, and community. During the closed session council discussed these areas and perspectives on the administrator's overall performance. Overall, the council expressed satisfaction with the administrator's performance to date and look forward to continued progress and future work. The council also discussed a salary increase for the administrator. Council Member Miller made a motion to approve a salary increase for City Administrator Reynolds of 4% effective on May 23, 2022. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Hasek, Lubenow, Miller and Peters voted aye. Council Member Kawecki voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion passed.

Chief Hunter spoke about the Good Neighbor Project "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" to assist those in need within our community on the Citywide Clean-up Days, June 14 and 18, 2022. If citizens are in need of help disposing of items, they should reach out to the Law Enforcement Center and notify them by June 13th. Also, anyone who is able to help with hauling items for disposal should let the Law Enforcement Center know. If anyone has extra disposal coupons that they will not be using, the Law Enforcement Center will take them to be used by those in need.

Council Member Lubenow made a motion to approve the contract with 292 Design Group for architect/engineer services for the community center. Council Member Kawecki seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Kawecki, Lubenow, Miller and Peters voted aye. Council Member Hasek voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion passed.

Council Member Peters made a motion to approve **Resolution 2022-28**, authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the state grant agreement for airport building rehab. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Discussion was held reviewing elected officials' salaries in accordance with City Charter. It was decided by the council to keep the elected officials' salaries the same.

Nemmers reported that an open house for the new public works facility was held and there was a good turnout. The new Engineering Tech, Mitch Nowak started today. Bette LaMaack is retiring and her last day will be June 2nd.

Reynolds reminded citizens that tomorrow, May 24th is a Special Primary Election. Voting will take place for citizens of Fairmont at the Knights of Columbus from 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Staff has been working with SmartGov in the implementation of the community development software. This implementation will be a nine-month process. The Planning Commission has received a request to rezone the north side of George Lake. Reynolds also reviewed all the events scheduled for the Memorial Day weekend in the City of Fairmont.

Council Member Hasek reported that the Airport Board discussed the grant agreement which was voted on tonight.

Council Member Kawecki reported that the Library Board approved the new integrated library system. The library has been having more programs in Fairmont and the other branches and are moving away from virtual programs. The library has been able to get more hot spots and are hoping to continue with hot spots through the end of the year. The library is excited that they were granted by the Minnesota DNR one state park pass that will be able to be checked out and used by library patrons to go to Minnesota state parks free of charge.

Council Member Lubenow reported that the Park Board discussed some holes in the Adventure Playground and that they would be contacting the contractor to see what can be done about them. The Parks are all open and the docks are installed. Discussion was held about the benches downtown and their need for being re-stained or painted.

Council Member Miller reported that CER is participating in the Martin County/MVAC Internship Program and will be having Lydia Steinhaus and Emily Lubenow working with them this summer. Enrollment in the programs for Spring and Summer has been good. CER is excited to partner with the Minnesota Vikings to provide a free football clinic on June 23rd. Use of City owned facilities and amenities has increased. CER is celebrating their 50th year in Fairmont and will be having a celebration open house soon.

Council Member Peters stated that FEDA has begun discussions regarding possibly partnering with Martin County for economic development. FEDA entered into a contract with Community and Economic Development Associates (CEDA) for assistance with economic development. Jennifer Howard from CEDA will be working in Fairmont a few days a week.

A motion was made by Council Member Miller, seconded by Council Member Hasek and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

Deborah J. Foster, Mayor

ATTEST:

Patricia J. Monsen, City Clerk