

The minutes of the Fairmont City Council meeting held on Monday, February 13, 2023, at the City Hall Council Chambers.

Mayor Lee Baarts called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Council Members Deb Foster, Wayne Hasek, Britney Kawecki, Jay Maynard and Michele Miller were present. Also in attendance: City Administrator Cathy Reynolds, Finance Director Paul Hoye, Chief of Police Mike Hunter, City Clerk Patricia Monsen, Civil Engineer Tyler Cowing, City Engineer Wes Brown and City Attorneys Chris Hood and Cara Brown, via telephone.

Council Member Kawecki made a motion to amend the agenda by adding 10.1 discussion to allow Flaherty & Hood to review the Krause Anderson contract for the community center. The motion failed for lack of a second. Council Member Foster made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Council Member Maynard seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Foster, Hasek, Maynard and Miller voted aye. Council Member Kawecki voted nay. Mayor Baarts declared said motion passed.

Mayor Baarts proclaimed February 18, 2023 as Kids Against Hunger Day in the City of Fairmont. Karen Sandhurst was present and spoke.

Mayor Baarts proclaimed the month of February 2023 as School Board Recognition Month in the City of Fairmont.

Reynolds presented and reviewed a Community Center Organizational Chart.

During Public Comment, Jonathan Melendez asked what the city is doing to have Spanish speaking translators at public meetings. Terry Riggs asked that the council do a survey of the citizens to see if they currently still support a community center. Michael Katzenmeyer, Chair of the Charter Commission expressed his dissatisfaction with City Administrator Reynolds. Rin Porter advocated for a Human Rights Commission, encouraged the City to address snow and ice on sidewalks and stated that she supports the community center and would like to hear more about programming.

Council Member Maynard made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion and the motion carried. Items on the consent agenda were: Minutes from the January 23, 2023 city council meeting; Event Permit for Interlaken Heritage Days on June 9 & 10, 2023; Event Permit for Fairmont Triathlon and Bacon Run 5K on June 17, 2023; Renewal of the Consumption & Display Permit for the Chain of Lakes Yacht Club and the appointment of James Draper to the Community Center Advisory Board.

Council Member Miller made a motion to approve \$6,000 in funding to the Interlaken Heritage Days Committee for the 2023 Community Festival. Council Member Maynard seconded the motion and the motion carried. Rachael Greeley and Judy Polzen spoke about the festival and thanked the city for their donation.

Wes Brown, Interim City Engineer from Bolton & Menk presented the 2023 Improvement Program. Council Member Foster made a motion to approve **Resolution 2023-09**, receiving report and calling for

a public hearing on the 2023 Improvement Plan to be held on Monday, February 27, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers of City Hall. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Miller made a motion to approve **Resolution 2023-10**, approving MNDOT Delegated Contract Process Agreement No. 1052256. Council Member Maynard seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Miller made a motion to approve the transfer of Fairmont's FAA Entitlement to the City of Orr. Council Member Maynard seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Hasek made a motion to approve Task Order #5 to the Master Agreement for Professional Services with DGR for the 10th Street Substation modifications. Council Member Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried by a majority of the council.

Council Member Foster made a motion to approve a Separation and Release Agreement with Martin Meixell. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Reynolds reported that the additional new Community Center Local Option Sales Tax Bills have been introduced and referred to committee. A meeting will possibly be held on Friday with some Senate Committee Members and our Lobbyists to help discuss and promote this Local Option Sales Tax. The State Bond has been drafted but has not been introduced yet. She is working on scheduling a work session in March and also looking at having a reoccurring work session with the Foundation, Hockey Association, Consultants and the Experts to keep everyone informed on the progress.

Reynolds stated that the City has been working with contractors for proposals on the Gomsrud Park Project. Looking at incorporating channel repairs into the project and applying for grants to help with the cost. The City is looking at additional parking and some open air shelters at the park. The design is still changing and it is anticipated that the final design will be coming to Council for approval shortly.

Reynolds stated that there is a meeting on the Zoning Code update this week. A work session with the Council, Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals will be scheduled in the near future to review the updated code.

Reynolds stated that the City has the following job openings: Water Operator, Wastewater Operator and Public Works Director/City Engineer. A discussion with Council may be coming to discuss separating the Public Works Director/City Engineer position.

Reynolds reported that the Community Development Software is coming along great. The City is looking at March training dates for staff. Once staff has been trained, the software will be available for the public to apply for permits and licenses on line, which will increase customer service and transparency for all.

Maynard reported that the Community Center Advisory Board discussed the organization chart and the roles and responsibilities of the CCAB. The CCAB would like more direct involvement and more power to make decisions. He expects a proposal to be forthcoming to the Council.

Maynard stated that FEDA approved a \$1,500 donation to ACE Career Day, approved a loan to reopen and operate Janzen's Greenhouse. They also approved a loan program for up to \$5,000 in forgivable loans to update facades and the fronts of buildings.

Miller added that Economic Development Coordinator Ned Koppen, has been doing a lot of strategic planning meetings with businesses and has been getting a lot of positive feedback on our community.

Miller stated that CER has been having great attendance at its classes and the Summer program booklet will be coming out in May. CER is looking for volunteers.

Foster stated that she attended the Visit Fairmont meeting, and they held discussion with many great ideas on promoting Fairmont.

Foster reported that the HRA hired Mike Edman as their attorney. The HRA also made a motion to proceed with an offer on a parcel of land to purchase for additional housing. Newly appointed member, Shawn Chambers has declined the appointment, as the meeting times does not work for him.

Foster also announced that she submitted her letter of resignation from the City Council, to be effective as of March 2, 2023.

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



Lee C. Baarts, Mayor

ATTEST:



Patricia J. Monsen, City Clerk