

The minutes of the Fairmont City Council meeting held on Monday, April 24, 2023, at the City Hall Council Chambers.

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

Council Members Wayne Hasek, Britney Kawecki, Randy Lubenow, Jay Maynard and Michele Miller were present. Also in attendance: City Administrator Cathy Reynolds, Finance Director Paul Hoye, City Clerk Patricia Monsen, Civil Engineer Tyler Cowing and City Attorney Cara Brown.

Council Member Kawecki made a motion to table agenda item 9.4 Fire Department for reasons it was not on the CIP. Council Member Lubenow seconded the motion and the motion failed. Council Member Maynard made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Council Member Lubenow seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Mayor Baarts proclaimed April 28, 2023 as Arbor Day in the City of Fairmont. The public is invited to a tree planting celebration on April 28, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. on the northeast corner of South Prairie Avenue and State Street intersection.

During Public Comment, Joe Loughmiller thanked Reynolds for her leadership with the City. He encouraged the council to focus on Fairmont's long-term interests and expressed concerns about a community center. Loughmiller also asked the council to support the zoning code update. John Walters of the Walters Carlson Group stated that the city did not follow the appropriate procedures for his B1 rezoning request for 500 West Anna Street. Brian Paradis apologized to Reynolds for how a few on the council have treated her. He also urged the council to work as a whole for the betterment of the entire city.

Council Member Maynard made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried. Items on the consent agenda were: Minutes from the April 10, 2023 City Council meeting; payment of the April accounts payable; Event Permit for Jamie Kueker/GODIS4U! Ministries to hold HOPEFEST on July 21 and 22, 2023 at Sylvania Park; Event Permit for the American Legion, DAV & VFW to hold Veterans Serving Veterans Picnic on July 29, 2023 at Gomsrud Park; and a Temporary On-Sale Liquor License for Truman Fire Department Relief Association for the Martin County Fair August 14, 2023 to August 20, 2023.

Council Member Miller made a motion to direct staff to prepare a resolution to approve the Memorandum of Agreement to participate in the Policy Committee for the One Watershed, One Plan Development. Council Member Lubenow seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Maynard made a motion to approve **Resolution 2023-18**, awarding the 2023 Overlay Projects 2023-A to Ulland Brothers, Inc. of Albert Lea in the amount of \$530,080.96. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Lubenow made a motion to approve **Resolution 2023-19**, granting a conditional use permit for a water-oriented accessory structure at 221 Krahmer Drive. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Maynard made a motion to approve utilizing CIP funds for a fire hall feasibility study. Council Member Miller seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Hasek, Maynard and Miller voted aye. Council Members Kawecki and Lubenow voted nay. Mayor Baarts declared said motion passed.

Council Member Miller made a motion to approve contracts with WOLD for architect services for the Sylvania Park Bandshell renovation and city hall updates. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Lubenow made a motion to make Reynolds last day with the City be May 19, 2023, as requested. Council Member Maynard seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Kawecki made a motion to appoint Paul Hoye as interim in short term and to work with Reynolds until we can find an interim. After discussion, Kawecki withdrew her motion.

Council Member Kawecki made a motion to hire an interim City Administrator. Council Member Lubenow seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Miller made a motion to create a hiring committee consisting of the Mayor and the City Council Member at Large. Council Member Lubenow seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Lubenow made a motion to look for an outside hiring firm to work with the hiring committee and Reynolds. Council Member Maynard seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Reynolds stated that the Strategic Planning Session scheduled for May 3, 2023 has been cancelled. This is something that should be done with the new City Administrator. The HRA Board has an opening and applications are being accepted until May 3, 2023. The Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting is April 26, 2023, 9:00 a.m. in the city hall council chambers. Reynolds gave an update on the A & I project. Any citizens who have not had their electric and/or water meters changed should contact city hall. A new Public Works Director has been hired and should be on staff within the next 45 days.

Council Member Hasek stated that the PUC discussed the A & I projects and the Line Department has ordered three new transformers.

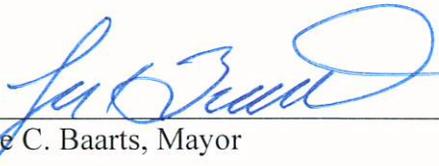
Council Member Kawecki reported that numbers at the library have been high. The library will be doing a roof project that will begin soon and there could be some tar odor related to the project. The library has hired a summer intern. The library will be holding weekly readings for youth in Spanish this summer.

Council Member Lubenow stated that the HRA has an opening on its Board. The Park Board was advised by Nick Lardy that they have been busy putting in docks and getting shelter houses and bathrooms ready for opening. There has been quite a bit of vandalism at our parks. Anyone with any information on vandalism at the parks is urged to report it to the law enforcement center. Lubenow reported that the new paint at the tennis and pickleball courts at Veterans Park is peeling off already. The shade shelters at the Winnebago Diamonds and the Soccer Fields are moving forward.

Council Member Maynard reported that he was unable to attend the Airport Board meeting. FEDA held a special meeting to approve the sale of the incubator and they approved four façade grants for downtown businesses.

Council Member Miller reported that CER has a printed brochure for the summer programs. They have been gifted sewing machines and are excited to offer sewing classes in the future. There are lots of new youth activities being offered this summer.

A motion was made by Council Member Miller, seconded by Council Member Hasek and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 p.m.



Lee C. Baarts, Mayor

ATTEST:



Patricia J. Monsen, City Clerk