

The minutes of the Fairmont City Council meeting held on Monday, July 10, 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: Finance Director Paul Hoye, Director of Public Works/Utilities Matthew York, City Clerk Patricia Monsen, Police Chief Mike Hunter, Economic Development Coordinator Ned Koppen and City Attorney Cara Brown.

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

Mayor Baarts shared that he attended the Mayors' League of Minnesota Cities Conference in Duluth and gained valuable information and networking contacts. Reminded citizens of the Adopt a Drain Program. For more information on it, you may contact the city or find information on the City's website. Going Hog Wild has been being featured on local and national news and is drawing people to the city. The School District will be sponsoring the summer meal program in July and August. Mayor Baarts announced all the events happening in the city for the next two weeks.

No one spoke during Open Discussion.

Council Member Miller 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 June 26, 2023 City Council meeting; Event Permit for Indulge to hold a Walk for Forever Emmalyne on July 22, 2023; and a Peddler's Permit for Kristaps Kaza to sell books with Southwestern Advantage.

Mayor Baarts opened the public hearing on proposed **Ordinance 2023-02**, an ordinance amending **Ordinance 2021-02** establishing a Rural and Urban Service District within the municipal limits of the City of Fairmont. No comments were received during the public hearing. Council Member Maynard made a motion to close the public hearing. Council Member Lubenow seconded the motion and the motion carried. Councilor Kawecki made a motion to increase the benefit ratio from 20% to 40% for rural service districts within the city. Councilor Kawecki made a motion to establish a committee comprised of maybe the Finance Director and Public Works Director and two council members to develop a subjective standard. Both motions failed or lack of a second. After discussion, the majority of the council agreed to schedule a work session in the near future to review the criteria for determining rural versus urban service districts within the city limits and make the necessary policy changes before the next ordinance establishing the rural and urban service districts is due.

Council Member Maynard made a motion to approve demolition assistance at 50% of the actual cost up to \$5,000 for Michael Munsterman of 702 Bird Street. Council Member Lubenow seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Community Development Coordinator Ned Koppen addressed the council regarding amending the restrictions on a property located at 1760 State Street. Council Member Maynard made a motion to

approve the amendment to declaration of covenants and restrictions for Center Creek Business Park. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Mayor Baarts and Council Member Miller gave an update on the City Administrator and Interim City Administrator search, stating that they had interviewed one candidate for the interim position and would be interviewing a second candidate on Tuesday. They also advised that the full-time administrator position has now been posted by GovHR.

York stated that the water meter project is 75% completed. If citizens have not gotten their new meter, they need to call the City immediately to avoid being charged an extra fee. There are about 60 residents left to get their electric meters changed and citizens should call immediately if they have not gotten their electric meter changed, as they are now receiving additional fees. The Streets and Parks Department have been busy filling potholes and storm water structures which were damaged over the winter, as well as keeping our parks mowed. The Mill and Overlay projects will begin July 17th. The Airport has had increased airplane traffic, which is great for our airport.

Hoye reported that he is on schedule with the budget preparation timeline and will have a preliminary budget by the end of September. A budget work session will be scheduled for the second week in August.

Council Member Lubenow reported that the HRA is doing a major project on a retaining wall. The HRA has reinvested some CDs to receive a higher rate. The HRA is looking to hire a part-time person to help with paperwork.

Council Member Maynard reported that FEDA received updates on Armstrong Drive, the deed restriction land in Center Creek Business Park, and housing. FEDA will be at the Martin County Fair and will participate in the Pork Masters Golf Outing.

Council Member Miller stated that Visit Fairmont talked about the livestock show held at the Martin County Fairgrounds and the large number of people it brought to town. They have hired someone to take photos, drone photos and videos to be used in new advertisement and brochures for the City. Visit Fairmont has also gotten two "Your Type Letters" to be used to promote the city. One is State of Minnesota and the other is City of Lakes. These can be used at events held in the City for photo opportunities.

A motion was made by Council Member Maynard, seconded by Council Member Hasek and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m.



Lee C. Baarts, Mayor

ATTEST:



Patricia J. Monsen, City Clerk