

The minutes of the Fairmont City Council meeting held on Monday, February 12, 2024, at the City Hall Council Chambers.

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

Council Members Britney Kawecki, Randy Lubenow, Jay Maynard and Michele Miller were present. Council Member Wayne Hasek was absent. Also in attendance: Interim City Administrator Jeff O'Neill, Finance Director Paul Hoye, Director of Public Works/Utilities Matthew York, City Clerk Patricia J. Monsen, Civil Engineer Tyler Cowing, Police Chief Mike Hunter, City Engineer Wes Brown and City Attorney Cara Brown.

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

Jonathan Loose, from Wold Architects and Engineers presented the council with the proposed site location for the Martin County Regional Public Safety and Justice Center.

During Open Discussion, Brooke Wohlrabe introduced herself as the new Sentinel Publisher and assured the citizens that the Sentinel is dedicated to continuing their services. Resident Steve Tudor requested the council to consider allowing bee hives in the city. Garth Carlson from Winnebago spoke in opposition to the proposed Martin County Regional Public Safety and Justice Center.

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 January 22, 2024 city council meeting; Appointment of Election Judges for the 2024 Presidential Nomination Primary, Primary and General Elections; Event Permit for Interlaken Heritage Days on June 7 and 8, 2024; Event Permit for Borderline Cruisers Car Club Show on June 8, 2024; Event Permit for Fairmont City Band summer concerts; Temporary On-Sale Liquor License for Martin County Chapter Pheasants Forever on April 20, 2024; Truck Chassis Purchase and Disposal; Garbage Truck Purchase and Disposal; and Tobacco License, License to Sell Edible Products Infused with Tetrahydrocannabinol and a 3.2% Off Sale Liquor License for CAPL Retail, LLC, d/b/a Joe's Kwik Marts at 407 E. Blue Earth Avenue.

Mayor Baarts opened the public hearing on the 2024 Improvement Plan. City Engineer Wes Brown and Civil Engineer Tyler Cowing gave an introduction and background on the improvement plan. Cowing stated that staff is looking at re-evaluating the rates on the Woodland Avenue project. Francis Crowley spoke concerning the assessments on the Woodland Avenue project. Council Member Maynard made a motion to close the public hearing. Council Member Lubenow seconded the motion and the motion carried. Council Member Maynard made a motion to approve **Resolution 2024-04**, ordering improvement, preparation of plans and advertising of bids. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Miller made a motion to approve the Airfield Pavement Maintenance State Grant and **Resolution 2024-08**. Council Member Maynard seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Maynard made a motion to approve the Airport Layout Plan/Master Plan Update Grant Application. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Maynard made a motion to establish the position of Human Resources Manager and direct the City Administrator to initiate the recruitment process. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Maynard made a motion to approve Task Order #2 with Bolton & Menk, Inc. for Blue Earth Avenue Traffic Study Analysis. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Maynard made a motion to approve **Resolution 2024-06**, creating a Bridge Replacement Priority List and authorizing the submission of applications for the Local Bridge Replacement Program. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Maynard made a motion to award recodification project to American Legal Publishing in the amount of \$7,900.00 and authorize establishment of City Council/Charter Commission Work Group. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

York reported a small delay in the Channel project, but stated they are still on course to finish the project in the next couple of weeks.

O'Neill reported that the first training for supervisors on the staff evaluation program will be tomorrow. Staff is working on a customer evaluation and feedback form for Community Development. We are working hard to get feedback to see what we can do better. He also reported that future council workshops will be scheduled on the fourth Mondays of the month before council meetings.

Council Member Kawecky asked for an update on the curly leaf pond weed. She also inquired about grants from the DNR.

Council Member Lubenow stated that the HRA will be touring the old, unused portion of Lakeview Methodist Home on Wednesday to see if there is a chance to provide more housing in Fairmont. The HRA is looking for properties to develop which have existing infrastructure.

Council Member Maynard stated that FEDA approved participating in the Area Career Exploration Event. They approved another façade program loan and renewed their membership with Greater Minnesota Partnership. Council Member Miller added that documents on the FEDA website are now available in Spanish. She also stated that Ned will be soon be giving an update to the council regarding some of the recruitment tools FEDA has been partnering with.

Council Member Miller reported that Amy Becker made a presentation to CER regarding what is needed in our community for the students. Summer programing is underway and the summer CER catalog will be online.

Mayor Baarts announced that there are openings on the Charter Commission and the Airport Board.

A motion was made by Council Member Maynard, seconded by Council Member Miller and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m.



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Lee C. Baarts, Mayor

ATTEST:



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Patricia J. Monsen, City Clerk