

The minutes of the Fairmont City Council meeting held on Monday, February 26, 2024, 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 and Jay Maynard were present. Council Member Michele Miller 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, Police Chief Mike Hunter and City Attorney David Assaf.

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 March 2024 as Heaven's Table Food Shelf Month in the City of Fairmont. Sue Redman and Diane Mosloski were present and spoke about Heaven's Table.

Hannah Neusch, Water Resources Technician gave a presentation on Curly Leaf Pondweed.

No comments were received during Open Discussion.

Council Member Maynard made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Council Member Lubenow seconded the motion and the motion carried. Items on the consent agenda were Minutes from the February 12, 2024 city council meeting; Payment of the February 2024 Accounts Payable; Event Permit for Grace Lutheran Church for Wednesday Worship at Sylvania Park during the summer; Event Permit for the Martin County Library Family Event on August 7, 2024; and Consumption and Display Permit for the Chain of Lakes Yacht Club.

Dennis Tino, President of the Interlaken Heritage Days Committee shared with the council some of the activities planned for Interlaken Heritage Days. He also requested that the council approve a \$6,000 donation. Council Member Maynard made a motion to approve \$6,000 in funding the Interlaken Heritage Days Committee for the 2024 community festival. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Maynard made a motion to approve **Resolution 2024-07** for an application for the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority Drinking Water Revolving Fund for the Water Storage Tank Project. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Item 9.3 on the agenda was the consideration of the Mayor's appointments to the Airport Board. There was discussion about Altman being eligible to serve on a city board, as he is a part-time employee of the City. The motion was made with the condition of checking the city code and charter to see if there are any rules about appointing a city employee. Council Member Hasek made a motion to approve the Appointment of Barry Altman and Ernie Nuss to the Airport Board, with the condition of eligibility. Council Member Maynard seconded the motion and the motion carried. (Fairmont City Code Section 2-238 (a) prohibits an employee of the city from serving on a board or commission, therefore Altman was not appointed.)

York reported that the initial phase of the channel repairs has been completed. There is concrete work and landscaping that needs to be done and it is anticipated that this will be completed by May 11, 2024.

Hoye gave an update from LGN, the city's government relations consultants who are our lobbyists for the upcoming state bonding bill request for the community center and ice arena. LGN is recommending removing the ice arena from this request because of the uncertainty of its feasibility. They feel that the bonding request will have a higher likelihood of getting passed with only the community center.

O'Neill reported that the Community Development Department's customer service feedback forms are completed and will be implemented soon. Employee evaluation training has been completed and evaluations will begin. The city will be going back to January 1, 2024 to complete evaluations on all employees on their hire date anniversary. The HR position has been posted. The city is still looking for applications for the Aquatic Park Manager. Information will be coming to the council in the near future about marijuana licensing and the potential for a municipal operation.

York stated that the Veteran's Park Shelter project is on hold as the city needs to do soil borings or an exploratory dig to determine what is underneath the location of the site for the installation of the shelter.

O'Neill stated that Charlene Stevens reported that she has received a couple City Administrator candidate applications that look qualified. A work session was scheduled for March 12, 2024 at 3:30 p.m. to review applications.

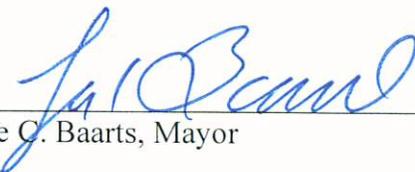
Council Member Hasek reported that the PUC discussed a project involving electrical work on the west side of town. They also talked about purchasing some equipment needed for transformers.

Council Member Kawecki reported that there are no concerns or problems at the library.

Council Member Maynard reported that the Airport will be having a pavement maintenance project going. They are expecting to have the project completed by June, prior to the Fly-in breakfast event. The Master Plan has been submitted to State and Federal Aviation and all the surveys have been completed.

Mayor Baarts reported that Representative Brad Finstad met with city officials last week and talked about daycare, housing, law enforcement and many other topics. It was nice to have him stop and listen to the needs of Fairmont.

A motion was made by Council Member Maynard, seconded by Council Member Lubeow and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

  
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Lee C. Baarts, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Patricia J. Monsen, City Clerk