

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION/
COMMENT**

Jeanne Thate addressed Council with her concerns of the dilapidated housing and unkept areas within the City.

Jeff Sauer, resident of Maple Street, requested Council consider turning Maple Street into a one-way, as drivers cut through on Maple Street to avoid the stop sign at Albion Avenue/State Street. He expressed safety as a top concern due to the numerous children living on Maple Street.

Liz Denn, resident of Maple Street, expressed concerns and reasons for Council to consider turning Maple Street into a one-way based on parking/traffic flow and pedestrian safety.

Sharon Sauer, resident of Maple Street, reiterated turning Maple Street into a one-way to allow children to more safely navigate the area.

Lisa Stout, resident of Maple Street, expressed concern more so with the excessive speed of which drivers cut through on Maple Street.

**MAPLE STREET PETITION
Item 5.1**

Administrator Skaret indicated converting Maple Street to a one-way would need to be conducted through city ordinance and that Council consider reactivating the Safety Council to review such requests and bring recommendations to Council. Council agreed for staff to contact Safety Council members and revisit this topic at a future meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Baarts introduced the consent agenda items as listed for consideration to be enacted by one motion unless requested that an item be removed and included under new business. Mayor Baarts reviewed the consent items, as follows:

- Minutes from the June 24, 2024 Regular City Council Meeting
- An Amended Lease Agreement with STEP, Inc. for additional space at the Southern Minnesota Educational Campus (SMEC)
- The Purchase of Portable Radios for the Fairmont Police Department to Meet Anticipated State Encryption Standards
- A Law Enforcement Center Lease Agreement Addendum, effective January 1, 2025
- An Event Permit for a MN Twins Baseball Clinic, Sponsored by Fairmont CER on July 28, 2024
- An Event Permit for a Fundraiser Event Sponsored by Fairmont Opera House on August 4, 2024
- A Temporary On-Sale Liquor License for the Fairmont Opera House on August 4, 2024 in Conjunction with their Fundraising Event

Motion was made by Councilmember Maynard, seconded by Councilmember Miller to approve the consent agenda. All present voted in favor. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC HEARING
MOTION
Item 7.1**

Mayor Baarts opened the Public Hearing on proposed Ordinance 2024-01: Rural and Urban Service Districts. Administrator Skaret provided background on the agenda item, referencing the various properties listed on the ordinance being within City limits, but not having full access to all city services, therefore the rural properties listed are taxed at 20% of the urban rate. Councilmember Kawecki referenced communication between herself, prior City administration and the prior City attorney regarding the rural and urban service district process/criteria/etc. With Council expressing interest in reviewing the properties/services said properties receive, due to the submission deadline of August 1, Council opted to discuss at a later time. No public comments were heard. Motion was made by Councilmember Hasek, seconded by Councilmember Miller to approve the consideration of proposed Ordinance 2024-01: Rural and Urban Service Districts, for this year 2024, at first consideration. All present voted in favor. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS
MOTION
Item 9.1**

Public Works/Utilities Director York indicated that as part of the Park Street Project, modifications needed to be made on the public right of way of 850 Albion Avenue, Fairmont to gain additional space to move the sidewalk back in preparation of a future replacement of a telecom line along Albion Avenue. Motion was made by Councilmember Maynard, seconded by Councilmember Miller to approve a permanent public easement affecting a portion of 850 Albion Avenue, Fairmont. All present voted in favor. Motion carried.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION
Item 10.1**

At the June 24, 2024 City Council Meeting, resident Steve Tudor addressed Council to request consideration of beekeeping within City limits. The Council expressed interest in allowing bees. Administrator Skaret recommended Council consider adopting an ordinance to address beekeeping in City limits and to consider holding a work session to further discuss and hear from University of MN Extension Service Jenny Warner on Beekeeping. Council initially started with a motion to allow beekeeping in town. After further discussion, Council agreed no action was needed and to allow beekeeping in City limits.

**MOTION
Item 10.2**

Councilmember Kawecki introduced agenda item 10.2: Arena/Hockey Contracts. Councilmember Kawecki voiced concern about the current contracts in effect, being last updated in 2004. Council expressed agreement with documentation being drafted citing City ownership of the compressors, purchased August 2023, to be installed at the arena (Director York stated due to electrical/transformer concerns with utilities being fed off Federated Rural Electric, we are waiting for a solution with the hope of compression installation to occur prior to the start of the hockey season).

Motion was made by Councilmember Lubenow, seconded by Councilmember Miller to move staff to work with the Hockey Association and City Attorney to show City ownership of the \$1.5 million compressors and reassess contracts after the November election; Councilmember Hasek, Lubenow, Maynard, and Miller voted in favor; Councilmember Kawecki voted against. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements were made.

STAFF/LIAISON REPORTS

Director York shared that work on Park Street (around Albion Avenue) is underway by Minnesota Energy with relocating a gas line prior to the street improvement project.

Administrator Skaret confirmed a Goal Setting/CIP Workshop with City Council on July 23, 2024, at 4:30 pm in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Councilmember Hasek reported his attendance at a Public Utilities Commission meeting and a Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, with a special meeting to be held to follow up on some items of business.

Councilmember Kawecki had no report but inquired on the status of a moratorium of the proposed jail site on Margaret Street and the subdivision/zoning ordinance update. Administrator Skaret indicated he would follow up on the moratorium and that staff is conducting a comprehensive review of the zoning update. After staffs' review, the update will be submitted to the Planning Commission and then be submitted to City Council.

Councilmember Lubenow reported the HRA Board is holding discussion with the Southwest Minnesota Housing Authority on development of the lots purchased near the Lakeview Methodist Home. Councilmember Lubenow requested Director York provide an update on the picnic tables, grills, and tennis courts for Veteran's Park at the next Park Board meeting.

Councilmember Maynard reported a kickoff meeting was held last month for the Fairmont Airport Board Master Plan Steering Committee. Stakeholders and Engineer's KLJ will meet over the next couple of years to discuss all topics that make up the Master Plan for the municipal airport. Councilmember Maynard reported FEDA approved financial support for the Region 9 Small Business Development Center.

Councilmember Miller reported that Whitetail Ridge will be breaking ground soon.

Mayor Baarts provided an overview on upcoming local happenings.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Councilmember Maynard, seconded by Councilmember Miller, to adjourn the meeting, as there was no further business to come before the Council. All present voted in favor. Motion carried. The Fairmont City Council adjourned at 6:37p.m.

ATTEST:



Lee C. Baarts, Mayor



Betsy Steuber, City Clerk