

**RECOGNITION/
PRESENTATIONS**

Hannah Neusch, Water Resources Technician, presented on the City's City's Stormwater Management Program and Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, as required under our Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) General Permit.

Water Resources Technician Neusch provided a summary on the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Task Force meeting she attended on July 9, 2024.

Finance Director Hoye presented the 2024 Semi-Annual Investment report.

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION/
COMMENT**

Brittany Hartman, resident of Martin County and Executive Director of Visit Fairmont, provided input to Council on how lodging tax, if required of Airbnb's and VRBO's, would aid Visit Fairmont and add funding for travel and tourism in our community.

Jason Subbert, resident of Fairmont, Fairmont Hotel Innkeeper, and board member of the Minnesota Lodging Association, expressed support of the Lodging Tax Ordinance to include Airbnb and VRBO rentals. Mr. Subbert presented resources and examples for Council to examine when updating said ordinance.

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 July 8, 2024 Regular City Council Meeting
- Accounts Payable for July 2024
- An Event Permit for Extreme Tour 2024 hosted by Godis4U! Ministries and Jamie Kueker on August 7, 2024
- An Event Permit for Music in Lincoln Park sponsored by Red Rock Center for the Arts on July 27, 2024
- An Event Permit for a Green Plains Employee Event hosted by Green Plains of Fairmont on August 17, 2024
- An Event Permit for a Disc Golf Tournament sponsored by Cedar Creek Disc Golf Association from August 15 – August 18, 2024
- An Event Permit for a Sip & Shop Event sponsored by Fairmont Area Chamber of Commerce on September 12, 2024
- A Temporary On-Sale Liquor License for the Fairmont Area Chamber of Commerce Sip & Shop Event on September 12, 2024
- An Event Permit for Fairmont Night Out sponsored by Fairmont Police Department on August 6, 2024
- An Event Permit for the Fairmont Police Department Chief's Challenge on August 28, 2024

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

**OLD BUSINESS
MOTION
Item 8.1**

Administrator Skaret introduced the second reading of proposed Ordinance 2024-01: Rural and Urban Service Districts. Councilmember Kawecky stated she would like Council to review Rural and Urban Service Districts within the next three months. Motion was made by Councilmember Maynard, seconded by Councilmember Miller to approve Ordinance 2024-01: Rural and Urban Service Districts. All present voted in favor. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS
MOTION
Item 9.1**

Public Works/Utilities Director York stated during the time of the Gomsrud Channel Project, several issues arose. Due to the unknown location/depth of underground utility services, exploratory excavation had to be conducted. This resulted in additional bracing for the sheet piles, as they could not be installed as planned. Additional concrete was required for the temporary easement, resulting in an overrun in the concrete line-item of the project and a portion of a split rail fence was replaced. While there was a \$30,000 deduction in the project due to utilizing existing site material, a change order in the amount of \$35,972 for exploratory excavation and construction materials (bracing, concrete, and fencing). Director York stated this change order would close out this project. Motion was made by Councilmember Maynard, seconded by Councilmember Miller to approve Change Order #1 for the Gomsrud Channel Project in the amount of \$35,972 with ICON Constructors, LLC. All present voted in favor. Motion carried.

**MOTION
Item 9.2**

Public Works/Utilities Director York presented quotes regarding screening and removal of materials at the yard waste site. Quotes presented were as follows:

Mid-Minnesota \$2.952/cu yard (screening only)
Erosion Control Plus \$4.50/cu yard (screening and removal)

To better compare said quotes, the City sought out Beemer Companies to provide a quote for removal services. Their quote was as follows:

Beemer Companies \$12.00/cu yard (removal only)

While staff recommended utilizing Erosion Control Plus for screening and removal not to exceed \$60,000, Council held discussion and several members posed questions on overall site clean-up, clean-up charges and quotes received from prior vendor Rosburg Construction. Councilmember Kawecky made a motion to table agenda item 9.2 until a quote is obtained from Rosburg Construction. Councilmember Lubenow seconded the motion and moved to amend the motion to table agenda item 9.2

and go out for RFP. Councilmember Hasek, Kaweck, Lubenow, and Miller voted in favor; Councilmember Maynard voted against. Motion carried.

**MOTION
Item 9.3**

Motion was made by Councilmember Kaweck, seconded by Councilmember Lubenow to table agenda item 9.3 and go out for RFP for a complete yard waste site clean-up. Councilmember Hasek, Kaweck, Lubenow, and Miller voted in favor; Councilmember Maynard voted against. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 2024-26
Item 9.4**

Administrator Skaret introduced Resolution 2024-26, a resolution adopting a data practices policy and appointing a responsible authority. Motion was made by Councilmember Maynard, seconded by Councilmember Miller to approve Resolution 2024-26: Adopting a Data Practices Policy and Appointing a Responsible Authority. All present voted in favor. Motion carried.

**MOTION
Item 9.5**

Mayor Baarts introduced the Gomsrud Park – North Parking Lot agenda item. Director York stated a bid opening was held on July 16, 2024, with bids received from OMG Midwest Inc. and M.R. Paving & Excavating. Bids were received and broken down as follows:

	Parking Lot/Ramp	Asphalt Trails	Concrete Trails	Total Cost without Trails	Total Cost with Trails Asphalt	Total Cost with Trails Concrete
OMG Midwest Inc.	\$944,416.70	\$201,725.75	\$267,608.25	\$944,416.70	\$1,146,142.45	\$1,212,024.95
M.R. Paving and Excavating	\$974,484.58	\$192,533.07	\$245,112.72	\$974,484.58	\$1,167,017.65	\$1,219,597.30
Engineers Estimate	\$726,229.00	\$129,593.00	\$174,718.00	\$726,229.00	\$855,822.00	\$900,947.00

Director York provided a brief overview to Council on the various bid options, stating the budget for this project is \$1,060,000. Motion was made by Councilmember Maynard, seconded by Councilmember Miller to reject bids and direct staff to rebid this fall for a summer project, beginning approximately July 7, 2025. All present voted in favor. Motion carried.

**MOTION
Item 9.6**

Administrator Skaret introduced a Cannabis Businesses Interim Ordinance to establish a Moratorium on cannabis businesses until January 1, 2025. Attorney Brown with Flaherty and Hood addressed the Council and answered questions on said subject matter. Motion was made by Councilmember Maynard, seconded by Councilmember Hasek to approve the first consideration for a Cannabis Businesses Interim

Ordinance and schedule a public hearing for Monday, August 12, 2024 at 5:30 pm. All present voted in favor. Motion carried.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Item 10.1

Councilmember Miller opened discussion on the 2025 Street Improvement Plan: Park Street. Councilmember Miller suggested using LOST funds on the Gomsrud Project and capital improvement funds for street improvement. Much discussion was held around this subject matter.

Item 10.2

Mayor Baarts expressed concern of safety at City Hall and opened discussion on said matter.

Item 10.3

Councilmember Hasek's item for discussion (Funding for Gomsrud Park and North Park Street) aligned with Councilmember Miller's agenda item 10.1, therefore no further discussion was held on agenda item 10.3.

Item 10.4

Administrator Skaret introduced and provided background information on the City's 3% Lodging Tax. The question has been posed if Airbnbs and Vrbos should be exempt or included with the collection of lodging tax. The overall discussion census was to leave the ordinance as is and begin collecting from all lodging establishments.

STAFF/LIAISON

Director Hoye invited the public to attend the Budget Work Session on Tuesday, July 23 at 4:30 pm.

Administrator Skaret shared the Community Development Director application deadline has closed. Councilmember Kawecki and Councilmember Hasek volunteered to serve as council representatives during applicant interviews.

Councilmember Hasek reported most of the utility meters have been replaced.

Councilmember Kawecki reported that One Watershed is in the process of compiling the recent survey results. Councilmember Kawecki reported the Lakes Foundation planted over 2700 aquatic plants in Sisseton and Hall lakes to aid with fish habitat and shoreland protection this past weekend.

Councilmember Lubenow reported on the recent Park Board meeting. Ned Adams approached the Park Board regarding the donation of a small decorative sailboat and the board is preparing for the Sylvania Park Bandshell centennial celebration.

Councilmember Maynard reported the Municipal Airport received funding from a prior FAA grant.


Councilmember Miller shared that Visit Fairmont is working to increase their digital content and considering quarterly photo contests.

Mayor Baarts recapped on recent celebrations in Fairmont and highlighted 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 8:00 p.m.

ATTEST:



Lee C. Baarts, Mayor



Betsy Steuber, City Clerk