

ROTATING VOTES

Please note that votes taken by roll call are called by the City Clerk on a rotating basis; however, the written minutes list the Councilmembers in alphabetical order.

**RECOGNITION/
PRESENTATIONS**

Mayor Baarts presented Chief Hunter, on behalf of the Police Department, with a Certificate of Completion for their enrollment and completion of Peace officer Accredited Training OnLine (PATROL) for the 2023 renewal period. Chief Hunter stated Fairmont Police was one of the first agencies to enroll in PATROL online and allows for compliance with various state mandates.

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION/
COMMENT**

Brandy Fletcher, voiced concern against adopting a “futile” Cannabis Moratorium.

Adem McNicol, local entrepreneur/owner of Herben Influence, voiced support of the prior comments made by Brandy Fletcher.

Shelly Larsen, Project Coordinator for Martin County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, discussed the importance of balancing cannabis business regulations with the need to protect the health and safety of Fairmont’s youth.

Curtis White, an individual involved in the cannabis industry for over 22 years, voiced support of the proposed Cannabis Moratorium.

John Siggerud, President of Emerald Fire Farms, spoke in support of the Cannabis Moratorium, believing it is important for the City to do their due diligence, explore the various regulation options, and have measures in place to protect youth.

Cameron Kabe, owner of Advanced Core, expressed concerns with the Cannabis Moratorium and the effects it could impose on his business.

Jeff Sauer, resident of Maple Street, Fairmont, provided a brief recap on converting Maple Street to a one-way and encouraged Council to vote in support of such change.

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:

- City Council Minutes from the Special Meeting on July 22, 2024
- City Council Minutes from the Regular Meeting on July 22, 2024
- City Council Minutes from the Special Meeting on July 23, 2024

- An Event Permit for Scrimmagefest sponsored by Fairmont Soccer Association on August 17, 2024
- An Event Permit for a Church Service sponsored by Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church on August 25, 2024
- Temporary On-Sale Liquor Licenses for the Martin County Preservation Association, dba Red Rock Center, for September 7, October 19, and December 20, 2024
- An Event Permit for an Elopement Ceremony by Courtney Waters at Lincoln Park on September 1, 2024
- A One-Year Service Agreement with BevComm, Inc.
- Replacement of a Bearing and Seal for Fire Department Ladder Truck #8

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

**PUBLIC HEARING
Item 7.1**

Prior to holding a public hearing on proposed Ordinance No. 2024-02: An Interim Ordinance of the City of Fairmont Prohibiting the Operation of Cannabis Businesses within the City and Establishing a Study Period Pursuant to MN Statute 342.13 (e), Administrator Skaret stated the moratorium would be effective until January 1, 2025 and allow the City additional time to put ordinances and regulations in place. Administrator Skaret confirmed the proposed Cannabis Moratorium is not applicable to edibles/gummies/THC (as those products were previously approved by Legislature and a current City ordinance exists for said items). Mayor Baarts declared the public hearing opening and accepted public comment.

Liz Wheeler, resident of Fairmont, addressed Council in support of adopting the moratorium until the Office of Cannabis Management finalizes its rules.

Justin Fletcher sought clarification from Council on the moratorium's adoption prohibiting the discussion of cannabis business within the City. Administration Skaret affirmed the moratorium does not prohibit such conversations.

Cameron Kabe addressed Council not in favor of the moratorium and believes it will negatively affect smaller, local businesses in the future.

Curtis White spoke in favor of the moratorium.

ORDINANCE 2024-02

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Maynard to close the public hearing. All present voted in favor. Motion carried. Mayor Baarts declared the public hearing closed at 6:08 p.m.

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Hasek to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-02: An Interim Ordinance of the City of Fairmont Prohibiting the Operation of Cannabis Businesses within the City and Establishing a Study Period Pursuant to MN Statute 342.13 (e). Councilmembers Hasek, Kaweck, Lubenow, Maynard, and Miller voted in favor. None voted against. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS
MOTION
Item 8.1**

Administrator Skaret provided a brief recap of converting Maple Street to a one-way. Motion was made by Councilmember Maynard, seconded by Councilmember Miller to designate Maple Street a one-way from Prairie Avenue to Albion Avenue. All present voted in favor. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS
MOTION
Item 9.A.1**

Public Works/Utilities Director York stated a bid opening recently occurred for the replacement of two processes, ultraviolet disinfection (UV) and biosolids, at the Wastewater Treatment Facility. John Graupman, Engineer with Bolton and Menk, stated the UV component is in dire shape and has the highest priority risk of acute failure; many of the electronic components are becoming obsolete and near impossible to find. Mr. Graupman stated that the City's current dryer system is undersized, old, and in poor condition; replacement will allow the City to meet new requirements relating to phosphorus/biosolid capacity. Bids received are as follows:

Bidder	Total Project Base Bid Price	Alternative A	Total Bid (Base-Alt A)
The Joseph Company	\$31,792,000	(\$1,800,000)	\$29,992,000
McGough Construction	\$34,250,000	(\$1,500,000)	\$32,750,000
Rice Lake Construction Group	\$34,638,400	(\$1,425,000)	\$33,213,400
Engineering Estimates for this project were between \$30 - \$35 million.			

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Maynard to approve a bid with The Joseph Company of Austin, MN in the amount of \$29,992,000 for the Biosolids and UV Project at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Councilmembers Hasek, Lubenow, Maynard, and Miller voted in favor. Councilmember Kaweck voted against. Motion carried.

**MOTION
Item 9.A.2**

Public Works/Utilities Director York introduced item 9.A.2: Task Order #5 with Bolton and Menk for Construction Management Services for the Biosolids and UV Project at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Director York reviewed the components of the construction management services for the task order, stating the total cost of the task order is \$1.95 million or approximately 6.5% of the project's contract cost.

Motion was made by Councilmember Maynard, seconded by Councilmember Miller to approve task order #5 with Bolton and Menk for Construction Management Services for the Biosolids and UV Project at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. All present voted in favor. Motion carried.

**MOTION
Item 9.A.3**

Bids were received from two companies for the Ground Storage Reservoir Reconstruction Project. Bids were received from:

DN TANKS, LLC, Wakefield, MA	\$3,849,800
PRELOAD, LLC, Louisville, KY	\$4,086,000

The engineering estimate for this project was \$4,300,000. Motion was made by Councilmember Maynard, seconded by Councilmember Miller to approve a bid from DN Tanks, LLC for the Ground Storage Reservoir Reconstruction at the West Side/Industrial Park location in the amount of \$3,849,800. All present voted in favor. Motion carried.

**MOTION
Item 9.A.4**

Director York introduced agenda item 9.4.A: Task Order #6 for Construction Management Services with Bolton and Menk for the Ground Storage Reservoir Reconstruction Project. Construction management services for this project cost \$184,000 which is approximately 4.8% of the project's total cost. Director York stated it is a best management practice to assign the company who designs the project construction management services to ensure the scope of the project and design are understood and standards and expectations are met. Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Hasek to approve Task Order #6 for Construction Management Services with Bolton and Menk for the Ground Storage Reservoir Reconstruction Project. Councilmembers Hasek, Kawecki, Lubenow, Maynard, and Miller voted in favor. None voted against. Motion carried.

**MOTION
Item 9.A.5**

Airport Manager Steinkamp introduced the hanger area taxi lane and apron grant amendment with the FAA to Council. Motion was made by Councilmember Maynard, seconded by Councilmember Hasek to approve the hanger area taxi lane and apron grant amendment with the FAA. All present voted in favor. Motion carried.

MOTION
Item 9.A.6

Motion was made by Councilmember Maynard, seconded by Councilmember Hasek to approve the reconstruction of taxiway A lighting – Phase 1: Design Grant Agreement with the FAA. All present voted in favor. Motion carried.

NO ACTION
Item 9.A.7

With the budget season underway, Administrator Skaret asked Council to set a date/time to hold a workshop to discuss the preliminary budget and tax levy for 2025. No motion was made on this agenda item, as Council requested a workshop with Brunton Architects and Engineers on the Fire Hall and City Hall feasibility study before a Budget Workshop. Administrator Skaret will coordinate a workshop for Council with Brunton Architects and Engineers in attendance and a budget workshop.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION
Item 10.1

Councilmember Kawecki opened discussion with Council to consider sale of the City portion of the ice arena. Councilmember Kawecki stated there has been some confusion on ownership, maintenance, and operation agreements of the site and wanted this option to be considered. Councilmembers Maynard, Miller, and Lubenow agreed that discussion on this subject is premature and should wait until after the election to see if Fairmont will be getting a new ice arena.

Item 10.2

Councilmember Kawecki believes it is time to move forward on the project with the Fairmont Area Community Center. Councilmember Miller believes it to be premature for such discussion and untimely due to the current litigation. Councilmember Maynard stated litigation has not tied up funding for the Community Center and they should proceed forward with operating agreements, etc. Administrator Skaret shared the FACC Foundation will present at the September 23rd City Council meeting and a rough draft of an operating agreement has been sent to Taft for legal review.

STAFF/LIAISON
REPORTS

Director York shared street sealcoating projects are to begin this week, weather permitting.

Administrator Skaret shared that Pat Oman was hired as the Community Development Director and is slated to begin August 19, 2024. Administrator Skaret thanked Councilmembers Hasek and Kawecki for participating the Community Development interview process. Additionally, Administrator Skaret mentioned that he, Finance Director Paul Hoyer, and Public Works Director Matt York met with the Fair Board and Jessica Scholl from the Hockey Association on August 6, 2024. A short-term agreement for the compressors is currently in the works with legal, the City of Fairmont and the Martin County Arena.

Councilor Lubenow stated concerns were voiced at the recent HRA meeting regarding the smoking ban at the site. Councilmember Lubenow thanked the residents of Maple Street in working together in petitioning for converting the street into a one-way.

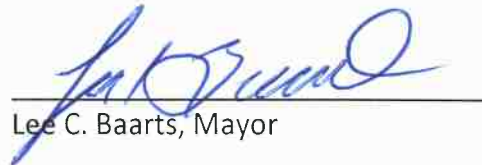
Councilmember Maynard reported FEDA approved 3 façade grants and the façade program is an overall success.

Mayor Baarts recapped on recent celebrations in Fairmont and highlighted upcoming local happenings.

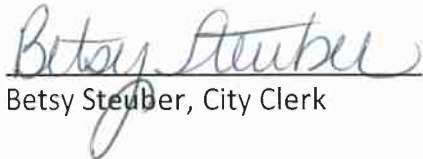
ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Councilmember Maynard, seconded by Councilmember Hasek, 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 7:08 p.m.

ATTEST:



Lee C. Baarts, Mayor



Betsy Steuber, City Clerk