**City Council Meeting**

**Minutes**

**05/04/2021**

Pledge of allegiance was led by Council President Dauner.

Meeting started at 7:00 PM in person.

**Brianne Beck from Regional Planning**

Brianne informed the Mayor and Council she was present to close out the CDBG Grant for COVID funds issued to 9 Mankato businesses. The Mayor signed the closeout documents and the Administrator attested.

**Cristina Jeffreys**

Requested council approval for a splash pad at the park, a sliding board, lily pad, and fountain at the pool. Council will discuss in new business.

**Sheriff Jacobs.**

Council mentioned to the Sheriff about cars on blocks, dogs, and trash in cans downtown. Attorney Miller said that the Administrator will need to issue a letter to the Sheriff for the cars and dogs. Attorney Miller recommended City Staff try to identify whose trash is in the cans and then let the Sheriff know.

Sheriff said he had one officer attending the academy.

**Health Director Marihugh**

Health Department issued 654 first round Maderna vaccines and 516 second round vaccines. She recently hired a new employee.

**Paul Mahlberg from KMEA General Manager**

Mankato was in the top 20% for the hardest hit cities for high cost with their fuel adjustment, caused by the spike in natural gas. Severe cold weather caused gas supplies to dwindle. This restricted the use of many power plants since they depend on natural gas. With the high electrical demand and limited gas supply circumstances became critical. Many gas wells froze up unexpectedly. Currently many cities and power companies are filing lawsuits against the gas suppliers. The State AG and the Federal Commission is investigating the gas industry. Unfortunately, none of it is regulated. Paul is predicting new regulations for the gas industry. Council asked when was the first warning for the high-power bill? Paul said it was only a week before we were notified. This was a surprise to everyone. Will we see a refund if they find wrongdoing? Paul said it may or may not happen.

**Monte Daken Johnson Enterprises**

Monte presented the Mayor and Council with the recent sewer inspections and cleaning conducted on Mankato’s sewer system. Monte showed severe areas of infiltration throughout the city. The council agreed we need to proceed with a plan to repair and line our sewer system. Amanda Horn said that we need an engineer. Monte suggested Miller and Associates from Kearney Nebraska.

**Amanda Horn**

Amanda suggested that Mankato be added to the intended use plan to apply for a loan to upgrade the sewer system. The application will be due by September 2021. However, we will need to hire an engineer ASAP. There was a motion Council President Dauner to hire Miller and Associates to do the intended use plan. Councilman Klos seconded the motion. Motion approved 4-0 and one absent. Councilman Tyler motioned to hire Miller and Associates to do a preliminary engineering report (PER). Councilman Klos seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0 and 1 absent.

Councilwoman Abel motioned to proceed with Regional Planning to do our application, find funding sources, and work with Mankato to ensure it is completed correctly and on time. Councilman Tyler seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0 and 1 absent.

Attorney Miller recommended the RC Collection Agency be our bill collector for outstanding bills owed by citizens. Councilwoman Abel motioned to approve RC and allow the Administrator to sign contract documents and service agreements suggested by the City Attorney. Councilman Tyler seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0 with 1 absent.

Council discussed adding a splash pad at City Park. Councilman Tyler motioned to approve the splash pad with no city funds being used. Councilman Klos seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0 with 1 absent.

Council decided that the pool will continue to have two diving boards.

Councilman Klos motioned that the Administrator be allowed to purchase 800 tons on cold mix for Lebow Street in the amount of $60,000 to $70,000. Councilwoman Abel seconded the motion. Motioned carried 3-0 and 2 absent.

Council President Dauner motioned to approve the CMB License for Sweden Crème and Councilman Klos seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0 and 2 absent.

Councilwoman Abel motioned the special event CMB license for the Mammoth Festival be approved and Councilman Klos seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0 with 2 absent.

Administrator requested the Water Conservation Plan be approved. Council President Dauner motioned to approve, and Councilman Klos seconded the motion. Motion approved 3-0 and 2 absent.

Administrator asked approval to hire B-Green Lawn care to take care of the grass and sprinkler system at the Community Center. Council President Dauner motioned to approve hiring of B-Green Lawn Care from Superior Nebraska, Councilman Klos seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0 and 2 absent.

Administrator requested approval to place the new electronic sign in front of Crestvue Motel, approve easement with the Horns, and allow an extra $1,650 to add a decorative limestone base for permanent mounting. Councilman Klos motioned to approve the sign location, approve easement with the Horns, and the extra $1,650 to install the sign permanently. Council President Dauner seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0 with 2 absent.

Fire Department requested approval to sell the old 1973 International Fire Truck at the Becker auction. Councilwoman Abel motioned to approve the sell of the fire truck and Council President Dauner seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0 with 2 absent.

Administrator asked for approval to buy wood, paint, food, and drinks for a future Park spruce up day. Administrator said he would apply for a grant for materials. Councilwoman Abel motioned to approve the Administrators request. Council President Dauner seconded the motion to approve the Administrators request. Motion carried 3-0 and 2 absent.

Administrator requested approval for the cost of installing a new fence by Beck Fencing at the swimming pool in the amount of $28,500. Councilman Klos motioned to approve the fence and Councilwoman Abel seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0 and 2 absent.

Councilwoman Abel updated Mayor and council on the Land Bank. Councilwoman Abel said there are several houses that will be discussed in the next Land Bank meeting. Councilwoman Abel asked that the council consider filing ordinance complaints against Aaron Coil for the old bowling Alley.

Attorney Miller said the lease at the Airport needs updating. He will ensure that happens.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 PM

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Justin Schoonover Barry K. Parsons

Mayor City Administrator