



**City of Moorhead
City Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2019 at 5:30 PM
City Hall Council Chambers**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the City Council Meeting was held in the City Hall Council Chambers, on October 14, 2019, at 5:30 PM.

Roll call of the members was made as follows:

1st Ward Council Member:	Shelly Dahlquist	Present
1st Ward Council Member:	Sara Watson Curry	Present
2nd Ward Council Member:	Shelly Carlson	Present
2nd Ward Council Member:	Heidi Durand	Absent
Mayor:	Johnathan Judd	Present
3rd Ward Council Member:	Deb White	Present
4th Ward Council Member:	Chuck Hendrickson	Present

City Council Meeting

1. [Call to Order and Roll Call](#)
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. [Agenda Amendments](#)
4. [Consent Agenda](#)

All items listed with an asterisk (*) are considered to be routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council Member so requests, in accordance with the "Council Rules of Procedure". In such event, the item will be removed from the General Order of Business and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.

Motion to Approve made by Deb White and seconded by Sara Watson Curry
Motion to Approve 4. Consent Agenda

Motion Passed

For: 5 - Shelly Dahlquist, Sara Watson Curry, Shelly Carlson, Deb White, Chuck Hendrickson

Against: 0 - (None)

Abstain: 0 - (None)

Absent: 1 - Heidi Durand

Recused: 0 - (None)

5. [Recognitions - Presentations](#)
 - A. [Update and Proclamation for FM Trailbuilders for Volunteer Service Clearing Trails Along the River Corridor](#)

Minutes: Certificate of Appreciation presented on behalf of Chris Volkens, City Manager, Steve Moore, Director of Public Works & Holly Heitkamp, Director of Parks & Recreation to Tom Hellman and FM Trailbuilders team who have maintained 9 miles of off road trails for biking and hiking at MB Johnson, Gooseberry and Horn Park areas.

Mayor Judd presented a proclamation on behalf of the citizens and the Council.

6. [Approve Minutes](#)

A. [September 23, 2019 Minutes](#)

Minutes: Council Member Carlson noted that on Item #3 of the September 23, 2019 meeting it was noted that she voted for the motion to approve agenda amendments, however, she was absent from the meeting. City Clerk will make the noted change.

Motion to Approve made by Shelly Carlson and seconded by Shelly Dahlquist

Motion to Approve 6. Approve Minutes

Motion Passed

For: 5 - Shelly Dahlquist, Sara Watson Curry, Shelly Carlson, Deb White, Chuck Hendrickson

Against: 0 - (None)

Abstain: 0 - (None)

Absent: 1 - Heidi Durand

Recused: 0 - (None)

7. [Citizens Addressing the Council \(Time Reserved: 15 Minutes\)](#)

8. Mayor and Council Appointments

Public Hearings (5:45 p.m.)

9. [Public Hearing Regarding the Request of Thad Thorsness on behalf of Luxsun Investments LLC for a Property Tax Exemption for a Commercial Project Located at 1706 26 St S \(58.507.0190\)](#)

Motion to Open Public Hearing made by Deb White and seconded by Sara Watson Curry
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Motion Passed

For: 5 - Shelly Dahlquist, Sara Watson Curry, Shelly Carlson, Deb White, Chuck Hendrickson

Against: 0 - (None)

Abstain: 0 - (None)

Absent: 1 - Heidi Durand

Recused: 0 - (None)

Minutes: Derrick LaPoint, Executive Director of Downtown Moorhead Inc. presented to the Mayor and City Council information regarding the request of Thad Thorsness on behalf of Luxsun Investments LLC for a property tax exemption for a commercial project located at 1706 26 St. S (58.507.0190) If approved, construction will begin in October 2019 and be completed in June 2020.

Motion to Close Public Hearing made by Shelly Carlson and seconded by Deb White

Motion to Close Public Hearing made by Shelly Carlson and seconded by Deb White.

Motion Passed

For: 5 - Shelly Dahlquist, Sara Watson Curry, Shelly Carlson, Deb White, Chuck Hendrickson

Against: 0 - (None)

Abstain: 0 - (None)

Absent: 1 - Heidi Durand

Recused: 0 - (None)

A. [Resolution to Approve Property Tax Exemption for Luxsun Investments LLC for a Commercial Project Located at 1706 26 St S \(58.507.0190\)](#)

Motion to Approve made by Deb White and seconded by Sara Watson Curry

Motion to Approve A. Resolution to Approve Property Tax Exemption for Luxsun Investments LLC for a Commercial Project Located at 1706 26 St S (58.507.0190)

Motion Passed

For: 5 - Shelly Dahlquist, Sara Watson Curry, Shelly Carlson, Deb White, Chuck Hendrickson

Against: 0 - (None)

Abstain: 0 - (None)

Absent: 1 - Heidi Durand

Recused: 0 - (None)

Economic Development

10. [*Economic Development Report](#)

Engineering Department

11. [Resolution to Approve Special Assessments After Further Review](#)

Minutes: Tom Trowbridge, Assistant City Engineer reviewed the special assessment progress made since last meeting. Three issues outstanding 1) Property #1, the property owner retracted their letter after discussion regarding the calculation. 2) Property #2, the city was in the process of purchasing the property so was able to move the closing date prior to the assessment adoption. 3) Property #3, the City has reached out to American Crystal Sugars and provided information and have not had any feedback. Having not received any the recommendation is to adopt the resolution. The Mayor asked for specification on contact to American Crystal Sugars made by the city which was responded to by Bob Zimmerman, City Engineer.

Motion to Approve made by Sara Watson Curry and seconded by Shelly Dahlquist

Motion to Approve 11. Resolution to Approve Special Assessments After Further Review

Motion Passed

For: 5 - Shelly Dahlquist, Sara Watson Curry, Shelly Carlson, Deb White, Chuck Hendrickson

Against: 0 - (None)

Abstain: 0 - (None)

Absent: 1 - Heidi Durand

Recused: 0 - (None)

12. [Resolution to Authorize Participation in a Red River Basin Commission Basin-wide Phosphorus Reduction Planning Effort](#)

Minutes: Andy Bradshaw, Operations Manager for Wastewater discussed the impacts and affects that phosphorus has on the City of Moorhead and presented the reduction plan.

Motion to Approve made by Shelly Dahlquist and seconded by Deb White

Motion to Approve 12. Resolution to Authorize Participation in a Red River Basin Commission Basin-wide Phosphorus Reduction Planning Effort

Motion Passed

For: 5 - Shelly Dahlquist, Sara Watson Curry, Shelly Carlson, Deb White, Chuck Hendrickson

Against: 0 - (None)

Abstain: 0 - (None)

Absent: 1 - Heidi Durand

Recused: 0 - (None)

Parks and Recreation Department

13. [Resolution to Select a Location and Proceed with Project Development for an Inclusive Playground](#)

Minutes: Steve Moore, Director of Public Works updated the Council on the All-Inclusive playground project. Site location has been discussed with a proposal to locate at Southside Regional Park. Miracle Field is already located there so this new amenity would be a nice compliment. Fundraising and concept designs groups; including staff, citizens and local children will be put together as next steps. Dakota Playground, a local company has been assisting in the planning with the City of Moorhead staff workgroup. The All-Inclusive playground project will be a sub-fund under the Moorhead Community Fund at the FM Foundation with a \$5,000 donation from Kiwanas already received. Council Members shared their excitement about this project and how the City of Moorhead will benefit from this project. Gehrtz Construction has agreed to seek contractors and provide pro-bono construction work for this project.

Motion to Approve made by Deb White and seconded by Sara Watson Curry

Motion to Approve 13. Resolution to Select a Location of Southside Regional Park and Proceed with Project Development for an Inclusive Playground

Motion Passed

For: 5 - Shelly Dahlquist, Sara Watson Curry, Shelly Carlson, Deb White, Chuck Hendrickson

Against: 0 - (None)

Abstain: 0 - (None)

Absent: 1 - Heidi Durand

Recused: 0 - (None)

Police Department

14. [*Approval to Enter into Contract for the Purchase of Axon Taser 7 Units and Services](#)

Administration

15. [*Resolution to Authorize 2019 Memorandum of Understanding between the State of Minnesota and the City of Moorhead for the Border City Enterprise Zone Program](#)
16. [*Resolution Consenting to the Issuance of Senior Housing Revenue Bonds by the City of Dilworth on behalf of Eventide Moorhead Senior Living LLC located in Moorhead](#)
17. [CDBG 5-Year Plan Briefing](#)

Minutes: Joshua Huffman, Community Development Program Administrator updated the Council on the 5-Year plan for the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) planning process. Council Members expressed their appreciation for the citizen engagement that was put forth with this process.

18. [Moorhead Public Service Commission - Budget 2020](#)

Minutes: Bill Schwandt, General Manager presented an overview of Moorhead Public Service general information, fee information and budget information. Council Member Carlson brought up the Fire Protection charge, stating that there is some misunderstanding amongst residents what those funds pay for. Bill Schwandt explained it covers the infrastructure of all the water mains/transmission lines for fire protection. Council Member Carlson suggested to be worded differently so that it is understood more within the community. Council Member Watson Curry suggested that this fee be deleted to save a 10.81% increase and that the Fire Protection charge is listed under the incorrect category and that it should be listed under MPS and not the City of Moorhead. As of January 1, 2020 that change would take place. Council Member Dahlquist saw issue with continuing to charge the residents for pipes that have already been laid and are permanent fixtures. Bill Schwandt explained that they have hired consultants to complete cost of service studies and the charge includes depreciation charges and capacity charges.

Council Member Watson Curry suggested deleting increased reconnect fees for the last hours of day because it is unfair practice, expand terms of vehicle replacement policy to save money and match longer term vehicle replacement policy the City uses. Some members shared that some feel that the fees are not appropriate for a department of the city, with some being duplicative along with safety concerns for residents and the cold weather policy.

Council Member Dahlquist commented that the 6% increase over the next 5 years is scary to see. She has asked for an itemized budget from MPS similar to what the City provides in order to have a financial comparison. Council Member White asked that MPS consider other ways to bring the increase down due to adversely impacting our residents and businesses. Bill Schwandt noted that for 2020 the rate increase will remain, but they will look at other financing options for years 2021-2024.

Mayor Judd asked that future presentations be given to the Council prior to the meeting in order to review it in advance of Council meeting and prior to the public hearing.

Council Member Carlson requested information on a line item for \$75,000 for a Communications position, and concerns from constituents of whether a consultant would be hired to address the customer service issues. Council Member Carlson suggested that all meetings be moved to a single location at City Hall Council Chamber versus rotating locations in order to maintain consistency. Council Member

White expressed concerns with the location of the MPS Commission meetings that it is the least accessible to the public, which hinders citizens with disabilities, children and our first objective and priority is to be responsive to the community.

Mayor Judd suggested that with the intent to add a new position for media, should it be reconsidered being the City already has this service and there would be efficiencies and it would be more fiscally responsible to that resource. MPS was asked to come back with information regarding a timeline for plans to make changes to the customer services concerns that have come up.

19. [*Consider Actions Relating to Ordinance No. 2019-09: An Ordinance Adopting the 2020 Fee Schedule](#)

A. [*Second Reading](#)

B. [*Title and Summary](#)

Other

20. [Mayor and Council Reports](#)

Minutes: Council Member Carlson reported the FM Diversion received a WIFIA Loan from the US EPA for \$510 million which will be \$600 million in savings to the taxpayers. Council Member Hendrickson and Carlson thanked John Shockley specifically for his work on that effort. It is a huge accomplishment to save taxpayers money. Friends of the Moorhead Library will be holding their Fall Book Sale from Oct. 24-26, 2019

Council members Watson Curry and White attended the MATBUS coordinating meeting and reported an increase in driver recruitment and that RFP's will be put out to update their fare box, along with security bids. Council members Watson Curry and Hendrickson reported on the Solid Waste Advisory Committee there is a volunteer experience to learn about the process and there is a "Waste Sort" on Oct. 24 1:30-5:00pm. MetroCOG has completed their renovation of offices. Moorhead Arts & Culture will debut "Florence Klingsmith" artwork October 28, 2019 at 10:00am on the side of ACE Hardware downtown.

Mayor Judd and Council member White discussed the citizen engagement workgroup. An Ad-Hoc committee has been discussed to enable citizen engagement. City Manager Chris Volkens clarified the process for when this discussion is brought up again in the future.

Motion to Table made by Shelly Carlson and seconded by Chuck Hendrickson

Motion to Table

Motion Passed

For: 4 - Shelly Dahlquist, Sara Watson Curry, Shelly Carlson, Chuck Hendrickson

Against: 1 - Deb White

Abstain: 0 - (None)

Absent: 1 - Heidi Durand

Recused: 0 - (None)

21. City Manager Reports - Updates

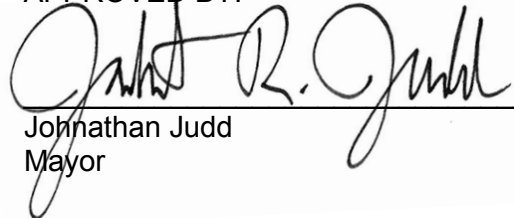
Minutes: City Manager Chris Volkens reminded all and especially the public about an upcoming event "All Aboard" on October 30, 2019 at 6:30pm at the Hjemkomst Center to discuss the possibility of a new passenger train service during the day to/from Moorhead to Minneapolis and Chicago. The public is encouraged to attend.

22. Executive Session (If needed)

23. [New Business](#)

24. [Citizens Addressing the Council \(continued, if necessary\)](#)

APPROVED BY:



Johnathan Judd
Mayor

ATTEST:



Christina Rust
City Clerk

The proceedings of this meeting are digitally recorded and are available for public review.

Respectfully submitted by:
Christina Rust, City Clerk