

**City of North Saint Paul**  
**November 16, 2021**  
**Approved Regular City Council Meeting Minutes**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Furlong called the meeting to order at 6:43 p.m.

**II. THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. ROLL CALL**

Present: Council Member Petersen  
Council Member Cole  
Council Member Wong  
Mayor Furlong

Absent: Council Member Thorsen (excused), Interim City Manager Brian Frandle

Staff: Interim City Manager Brian Frandle, Deputy City Clerk Jennie Kloos, Finance Director Daniel Winek, City Attorney Soren Mattick, Communications Consultant Kari Erpenbach.

**IV. ADOPT AGENDA**

***On motion by Council Member Cole, seconded by Council Member Petersen, with all present voting aye (4-0), motion carried to approve the agenda as submitted.***

**V. PRESENTATIONS**

**A. Fire Prevention Poster Awards**

Mayor Furlong introduced Fire Chief Jason Mallinger. Chief Mallinger presented the results of the Firefighter Prevention Week poster contest, which was last held in 2019. He added it has been great to be back in schools again, talking to the kids, and great to be here in Council Chambers with everyone. He introduced Assistant Chief Brent Fyksen and Fire Fighter McKenzie Foster, both of whom have played a critical role in planning and implementing the event.

Chief Mallinger stated the Fire Department visited 6 elementary schools, and firefighters spent 30 hours with over 1100 students, teaching fire safety and prevention, and make an impact on students so that they can learn how to prevent fires inside and outside of the home. The theme of this year's contest, "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety", focuses attention on the sounds of smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms and what actions should be taken for each type of alarm.

Chief Mallinger stated the contest, open to all K-5 students attending school within the City of North St. Paul, had over 500 entries. First place winners will be entered in the Minnesota State Fire Association Fire Prevention poster contest. In the past, there have been entries from North

St. Paul in all levels at the State contest. Winners receive an award and check: 3<sup>rd</sup> place - \$25; 2<sup>nd</sup> place - \$50, and 1<sup>st</sup> place - \$75. Prizes are also awarded at the State level.

Awards were presented to the contest winners:

**K-1<sup>st</sup> Grade**

3<sup>rd</sup> place - Adam Yang - Christ Lutheran

2<sup>nd</sup> place - Kiefer Engstrom - St. Peter

1<sup>st</sup> place - Moira Vane - Christ Lutheran

**2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**

3<sup>rd</sup> place - Edwin Vu - Cowern Elementary

2<sup>nd</sup> place - Nina Travon - North Metro

1<sup>st</sup> place - Sonya Palkowich - North Metro

**4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

3<sup>rd</sup> place – James Heinz – St. Peter

2<sup>nd</sup> place – Anna Wakeman – Christ Lutheran

1<sup>st</sup> place – Hadley Geisfeldt – Christ Lutheran

## **VI. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Furlong stated Police Chief Baebenroth has requested City Council approval to order a squad car now, the cost of which is already included in the 2022 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), due to back log and supply issues. He requested feedback from the City Attorney.

City Attorney Soren Mattick stated he would defer to Finance Director Daniel Winek, but the squad car is already in the CIP so it is an anticipated expense. He added, once the car is ordered, the City Council will have given permission to purchase the vehicle, but the purchase would still be reviewed for approval under Claims. He noted City Council approval of the squad car on tonight's Consent Agenda would clarify that the City Council has approved expenditure of these funds.

Finance Director Daniel Winek stated funding for the squad car was already approved through the 2022 CIP, and funds are available. He added it would be appropriate for the City Council to give approval to move that forward now.

Mr. Mattick stated, for purposes of clarification, the Police Chief will place an order for the squad car if the City Council gives authorization tonight for the purchase.

Council Member Wong expressed concern, from a process standpoint, about approving the expense without any documentation.

Mayor Furlong requested clarification from City Staff regarding the total cost for the squad car. He added this item could be added to tonight's meeting agenda for further discussion.

Mr. Mattick stated there is nothing to discuss without further documentation, and Consent Agenda is for items that do not require discussion.

Mr. Winek stated \$65,000 per vehicle is included in the 2022 CIP, which has already been approved by the City Council. He added the Police Chief is following purchasing guidelines by requesting City Council approval in this calendar year. He noted the City Council would not normally see the vehicle order as it was already approved, although it would be on the Claims Report.

Council Member Wong stated she feels it is important to have some sort of documentation, and she would welcome a discussion at the next workshop or regular meeting.

Mr. Winek stated, depending upon the time frame, this item could be added to the December 7, 2021 meeting agenda. Mayor Furlong stated the Police Chief made it clear the vehicle needs to be ordered sooner rather than later.

Council Member Wong asked which vehicle is being replaced. Mr. Winek stated the oldest vehicle is a 2015 Ford Explorer that will be replaced in 2022.

Council Member Wong stated she feels the City Council can postpone this item for discussion at the next City Council meeting.

***On motion by Council Member Petersen, seconded by Council Member Wong, with all present voting aye (4-0), motion carried to approve the consent agenda, Resolution No. 2021-117 consisting of:***

- A. October 26, 2021 special council meeting minutes.
- B. November 2, 2021 regular meeting minutes.
- C. General Claims \$1,020,655.04.
- D. HRA Claims \$6,513.03.
- E. 2022 Annual Polling Place Designation. Resolution No. 2021-118.
- F. Monthly Building Permit Report – October 2021.
- G. Resolution Approving Acceptance of Donations Received October 2021. Resolution No. 2021-119.
- H. Hometown Holiday Lights Display Contest.

## **VII. MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC**

***John Schmahl*** stated he was unable to find any information on the City website about the City Council meeting and interviews on November 10, 2021. He noted he spoke with Deputy Clerk Jennie Kloos who indicated that there was no packet or agenda, but information was posted at City Hall, and the meeting started at 5:00 p.m.

***R.T. Luczak*** thanked the City Council for the opportunity to speak remotely. He stated the volleyball season is in full swing with competition schedules set and the gyms are full. He added two areas of the roof are still leaking, and the ballasts are out above the stairs and in the restrooms.

Mr. Luczak stated he recently submitted facility-related documents to Council Members Cole and Wong as well as supplemental documents today to the Deputy Clerk. He added, at the last City Council meeting, there was discussion regarding the process for figuring out what the property should be leased for and what the lease amount was when the hockey program occupied the building. He noted he found that documentation as well as public record documents regarding the

hockey program lease from former City Manager Ziemer. He thanked the City Council for their help and support.

## **VIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

There were no scheduled hearings.

## **IX. CITY BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS**

-None.

## **X. REPORTS OF CITY MANAGER AND DEPARTMENTS**

Mayor Furlong stated Interim City Manager Brian Frandle was unable to attend the meeting due to illness.

Communications Staff Kari Erpenbach stated segments of the sidewalk in the downtown area are under warranty and are being fixed by North Country. She added City Staff are working with Sentinel management to remove the barricades. She noted the Sentinel has asked that the barricades stay in place for a few more days until construction on the front of the building is completed.

Ms. Erpenbach stated the Sentinel submitted their rental license request yesterday. She added City Staff are working on scheduling inspections and licensing. She noted a ribbon cutting and tour are scheduled for Friday, November 20, 2021 at 3:00 p.m., and a bigger event will be planned when the restaurant opens.

Ms. Erpenbach stated Hillcrest Brake and Alignment will host a catalytic converter etching and painting event on Saturday, November 21, 2021. She added residents can sign up on the City website.

## **XI. REPORTS OF COUNCIL, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES**

Council Member Cole stated the Parks & Recreation Commission has completed a preliminary Parks Improvement Plan. He added the Commission's next meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sandburg Room.

Council Member Cole stated the Economic Development Association (EDA) met last week and approved a proposal from St. Paul Port Authority to provide support and assistance for development opportunities, including the Lillie News building.

Council Member Cole stated the EDA is schedule to meet November 14, 2021, at 3:00 p.m. in the Sandburg Room.

Council Member Wong stated the Arts & Culture Commission recently had SmartSheet training and are working diligently on by-laws and projects for 2022.

Council Member Wong stated the next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for December 2, 2021, at which the Commission will review the Sign Code Ordinance and other topics, including

outdoor patio seating tables for the downtown area in collaboration with businesses, as well as trail connections.

Council Member Petersen stated the 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue student build house is under construction, with roof trusses ready to be installed. She added the house is looking good, and the students are working hard.

Council Member Petersen stated the Business Association will not meet in December 2021. She added the Board wishes everyone a Happy Holidays.

Council Member Petersen stated information regarding the Holiday Lights Contest will be available on the City website beginning on Monday November 22, 2021.

Council Member Petersen stated the League of Minnesota Cities Board meeting will be held November 18, 2021. She added it will be her last meeting, and she will be spotlighting North St. Paul with a snowman drawing contest and passing out treats.

Council Member Petersen stated a recent article in the Minneapolis Star Tribune gave a history of the City of North St. Paul, “the working man’s utopia”.

Council Member Petersen stated Minnesota Women in City Government will be hosting Women’s Suffrage Day on November 20, 2021, to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the right to vote for women in the United States.

Mayor Furlong stated the Veteran’s Day event held at the Veteran’s Park was very well-attended.

## **XII. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **General business**

Council Member Cole stated he is excited for the Holiday Lights competition. He added there was phenomenal participation last year, and he looks forward to the competition in 2021.

Council Member Cole stated the Holiday Hop is planned for December 4, 2021.

Council Member Cole stated the memorial service at Veteran’s Park was very well-attended, although it was a windy and cold day. He added the high school choir performed, and the North High School ROTC participated as well. He noted it was a very moving event.

Council Member Petersen wished everybody a happy Thanksgiving.

Council Member Petersen stated the Prayer Breakfast was an awesome event, and the Mayor did a great job with greetings. She thanked the City of Oakdale for including representatives from North St. Paul at their table.

Council Member Petersen stated a Polar hockey event is scheduled for Friday, November 20, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

Mayor Furlong stated the keynote speaker at the prayer breakfast was Lieutenant Colonel Brian Birdwell who survived the 9/11 attacks when a plane crashed into the Pentagon. He added Lt. Col. Birdwell was badly burned over 65% of his body and shared his survival story and spiritual journey.

Mayor Furlong stated North St. Paul churches are planning a donation program for the Police Department and first responders to provide funding for Cub Foods gift cards that they will carry with them when they are out on patrol.

Mayor Furlong stated the Sentinel building ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for Friday November 20, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. He added the City Council will be attending the event.

Mayor Furlong stated Hillcrest Automotive will be offering catalytic converter spray painting and emblem signing. He added the event is scheduled for November 20, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

### **XIII. RECESS**

***On motion by Council Member Wong and seconded by Council Member Petersen, with all present voting aye (4-0), the meeting went into recess at 7:26 p.m. to go into the HRA meeting.***

### **XIV. CLOSED SESSION**

***On motion by Council Member Wong and seconded by Council Member Cole, with all present voting aye (4-), the meeting was reconvened and went into closed session at 7:39 p.m.***

The meeting will be closed as permitted by section 13D.03 to discuss the City's labor negotiation strategy related to the City's negotiations with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Works (IBEW), Local 160 (Supervisory Unit), Teamsters Public and Law Enforcement Employees Union, Local 320 (Public Works and Electrical) and Law Enforcement Labor Services, Local 211 (Patrol) unions.

### **XV. ADJOURNMENT**

***There being no further business, on motion by Council Member Petersen, seconded by Council Member Wong, with all present voting aye (4-0), Mayor Furlong adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m.***

/s/ Terrence J. Furlong, Mayor

Attest: /s/ Jennie Kloos, Deputy Clerk