

City of North Saint Paul
March 1, 2022
Approved Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Mayor Peterson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Pastor David Bjorklund opened the meeting with a prayer.

II. THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Coach Peterson, 2618 Belmont Lane North, provided a brief overview of District 2 youth hockey. He asked for continued support for the East Metro Stars and introduced the 2022 East Metro Stars Squirt Teams B and C District 2 champions. Acting Mayor Peterson thanked and congratulated the teams on their accomplishment.

III. ROLL CALL

Present: Council Member Thorsen
Council Member Cole
Council Member Wong
Acting Mayor Peterson

Absent: Mayor Furlong

Staff: City Manager John Stark, Deputy Clerk Jennie Kloos, City Engineer Morgan Dawley, City Attorney Soren Mattick, Communications Consultant Kari Erpenbach

IV. ADOPT AGENDA

City Manager Stark recommended Item IX. A be deferred until a later date, noting there will be additional discussion with Finance Director Winek and City Engineer Dawley.

On motion by Council Member Thoreson, seconded by Council Member Cole, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve the agenda as revised.

V. PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

VI. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

On motion by Council Member Thoreson, seconded by Council Member Wong, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve the consent agenda, Resolution No. 2022-023 consisting of:

- A. February 15, 2022 regular meeting minutes
- B. General Claims \$1,061,746.13
- C. HRA Claims \$3,983.55
- D. Resolution Appointing John Stark as the Responsible Authority for Data Practice Act – **Resolution No. 2022-024**
- E. Resolution Approving Authorized Signatories for the City of North St. Paul – **Resolution No. 2022-025**
- F. Public Works – Purchase of 2 new lawnmowers
- G. Target Donation – North St. Paul Police Department – **Resolution No. 2022-026**
- H. Ramsey County Library and North St. Paul Use of Fiber Optic Capacity Agreement

VII. MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC

John Schmahl, requested the City Council look further into the electricity rate increase. He questioned how rates are approved or identified.

VIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no scheduled public hearings.

IX. CITY BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. 2022 Street & Utility Improvement Projects (City Project Nos. 22-02 / 22-03 / 22-04 – Receive Bids and Award Contract

This item was removed from the agenda and will be discussed at a later date.

X. REPORTS OF CITY MANAGER AND DEPARTMENTS

- A. Fire Chief Jason Mallinger Department Update

Fire Chief Jason Mallinger updated City Council on 2021 incident responses, employee status, and code compliances. Mallinger also outlined mutual aid from neighboring departments, detailed reports on calls for service, and expressed appreciation for the diversity of the current Fire Department.

Council Member Thoreson inquired if data from EMS calls can be broken down any further in order to provide more details. Mallinger stated the system does not break down EMS calls any further and the City would have to research that data in order to break down the types of EMS calls.

Acting Mayor Peterson inquired about a retirement party. Stark explained they are looking at late April and will provide staff with information later this week.

Acting Mayor Peterson wondered how the Fire Department is prepared to handle increased population. Mallinger stated he will be meeting with Stark to create a plan moving forward and bring it to City Council for approval.

Council Member Thoreson questioned the code compliance regarding trash debris. Mallinger noted many times it is simply letting residents know what the requirements are so they understand them.

Council Member Wong questioned the zoning inspections for signs, noting the Planning and Zoning Commission will be visiting the sign ordinance in their upcoming meeting

Stark commented Mallinger has a genuine desire to help and has created a great culture at the Fire Department.

XI. REPORTS OF COUNCIL, COMMISSION AND COMMITTEES

Stark discussed the tentative workshop schedule with dates and topics.

Council Member Cole noted the next EDA meeting will be Tuesday, March 8th at 3:00 p.m.

Council Member Wong stated the redevelopment master plan group met Monday and reviewed chapter 4, discussing specified districts of downtown. She updated the City Council on green space and access options to the Gateway Trail. She noted the Planning Commission meets on Thursday and will be discussing the sign ordinance. There are currently 4 applicants for the Planning Commission and that will be decided in the next month.

Council Member Thoreson had nothing to report.

Acting Mayor Peterson stated the business association meeting is March 8th at noon with guest speaker, City Manager Stark. She noted the 19th Student House is moving forward with plumbing and windows installed next week. The League of Minnesota Cities had a zoom meeting and indicated that dues and rates for next year will increase.

Council Member Cole reported the Casey Lake resident meeting had 22 participants. Communications Staff Kari Erpenbach provided a brief review of a past meeting regarding water quality and water depth, noting there is a process outlining who is responsible for a particular area and the goals of the agency. That recording will be on YouTube tomorrow

Council Member Cole provided a brief overview of History Day at the Maplewood Middle School and participated in judging.

Acting Mayor Peterson stated there will be many road work projects and reminded residents to be patient.

Stark commented on a change to dimensions for a buildable lot. He stated the reason the Comprehensive Plan adjusted the lot size was to accommodate the density in the area.

XII. GENERAL BUSINESS

There were no general business items.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion by Council Member Wong, seconded by Council Member Thoreson, with all present voting aye (5-0), Acting Mayor Peterson adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

/s/ Candy Peterson, Acting Mayor

Attest:

/s/ John Stark, City Manager / Clerk