

City of North Saint Paul
August 16, 2022
Approved Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

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

Staff: Interim City Manager Brian Frandle, Deputy Clerk Jennie Kloos, City Engineer Morgan Dawley, Finance Director Daniel Winek, City Planner Brandy Howe, City Attorney Soren Mattick, and Community Services Jill Officer

IV. ADOPT AGENDA

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

V. PRESENTATIONS

A. Proclamation – Constitution Week in North Saint Paul

Mayor Furlong read a proclamation dedicating the week of September 17th-23rd as Constitution Week.

VI. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Furlong requested Consent Agenda Item E be removed and addressed under City Business.

Council Member Wong requested Consent Agenda Item D be removed and addressed under City Business.

On motion by Council Member Cole, seconded by Council Member Wong, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve the consent agenda, Resolution No. 2022-072 consisting of:

- A. General Claims \$501,598.01
- B. HRA Claims \$232,291.62
- C. EDA Claims \$212.50
- D. Lease Extension between the City of North Saint Paul and Kokoro Volleyball, LLC.
Moved to City Business
- E. Park and Recreation Park Entry Signs **Moved to City Business**
- F. Building Permit Report – July 2022
- G. Resolution Approving Acceptance of Donations Received July 2022, **Resolution No. 2022-073**

VII. MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC

John Schmahl expressed his concern with the Nexus Lexus program and suggested the City look into it. He also noted his concern regarding the profit margin of the student-built house, prior comments made at the last Planning Commission meeting regarding air quality, and a meeting notification sent out on a Sunday.

David Nelson thanked the volunteers who picked weeds but suggested the City look into goats that will eat invasive weeds. He also suggested talking with Maplewood staff as they are currently using goats and there are various grants to help with cost. He noted spraying near the Watershed District needs to be done correctly. Mayor Furlong suggested more communication between the two groups.

VIII. CITY BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

A. 2022 Street Maintenance Crack Sealing – Receive Quotes and Award Contract

City Engineer Morgan Dawley presented this item and stated crack sealing happens every 2-5 years and is within the budget. He also noted the map in the packet shows the first and second tier areas. If awarded tonight, the anticipated completion date is October 1, 2022.

Mayor Furlong inquired about an overlay. Mr. Dawley stated only crack sealing is scheduled this year, which is nondisruptive to traffic and extends the life of the road especially the newly built roads. MnDOT has indicated the road life is 50+ years if overlays are done every 15 years or so. City Council voted on the original contract that was budgeted for \$70,000. Mayor Furlong stated if the money can be found, the additional \$13,000 could be used to help with this item.

On motion by Council Member Thorsen, seconded by Council Member Wong, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to adopt Resolution No. 2022-074 accepting quotes and awarding a construction contract for the 2022 Crack Sealing Project.

B. Downtown Landscaping Improvements – Receive Quotes and Award Contract

Mr. Dawley discussed this as a continuation of the Sentinel project. In 2020, fiscal constraints caused the landscaping to be pulled out of the budget. City staff wants this done before the end of the year. He noted the low bid went to South View Design and includes removing existing mulch before the landscaping begins. Irrigation sleeves and other underground specifications were written into this contract and will abide by the timeline of the landscaping.

Mayor Furlong questioned whether any improvements are happening in front of the Lillie building. Mr. Dawley stated he spoke to the developer and there will be 2 small planting areas that will not significantly impact the Lillie building plan. Mayor Furlong inquired if eliminating the landscaping around the Lillie building would be a better option. Mr. Dawley stated they should be able to work around this and he does not want to make decisions too early.

On motion by Council Member Petersen, seconded by Council Member Cole, with Mayor Furlong and Council Members Cole, Petersen and Wong voting aye and Council Member Thorsen voting nay (4-1), motion carried to award a construction contract to Southview Design of St. Paul for the downtown landscaping improvement in the amount of \$53,047.96.

Mayor Furlong inquired when this work could start and status of the warranty. Mr. Dawley would like to see a start planned for late September or early October and there is a warranty for one year from time of installation.

C. Park and Recreation Park Entry Signs

Mayor Furlong requested this be pulled from the Consent Agenda because the Planning Commission Chair had questions about the size and position of signs. Community Services Jill Officer showed the 24x40 sign and provided the City Council with a metal sample. Ms. Officer mentioned it is user friendly, durable, and will be placed in the same spot as the other sign. Mayor Furlong noted the previous eight-foot signs were used to put up other smaller signs and was concerned with the size of the new signs not having that flexibility

Council Member Wong noted the quote is under budget and questioned if Parks and Recreation had any other thoughts on how to use the excess money. Ms. Officer suggested cleaning solutions to help with possible graffiti.

Council Member Cole noted in an email earlier this week there was a question regarding sign count. Ms. Officer stated maybe a smaller park sign that could be done now or later. Council Member Thorsen suggested using the fence that runs along there.

Mayor Furlong clarified this item did not need a motion or a vote because it had already been approved and was only pulled to provide information and clarification.

D. Lease Extension between the City of North Saint Paul and Kokoro Volleyball, LLC.

Council Member Wong requested this be pulled from the Consent Agenda to inquire about the stability of the building and the terms of the lease extension. Mr. Frandle stated they will do roof patching and a new boiler will be installed. Mr. Frandle also stated this will help maintain the building through the winter.

On motion by Council Member Cole, seconded by Council Member Petersen, with all present voting aye, (5-0), motion carried to approve the existing lease extension ending June 30, 2023.

IX. REPORTS OF CITY MANAGER AND DEPARTMENTS

Mr. Frandle reported the HRA closed on the Eldridge property. Asbestos removal is scheduled for next week and is being surveyed to split it into two lots for future student-built homes. Closing for the student-built house will be this Friday. He also reported that City staff conducted five interviews and the top candidate accepted the position of Community Development Director.

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Council Member Cole stated Park and Recreation had a meeting on July 27, 2022 to discuss sign design and redesign the tennis courts into pickleball courts. Next meeting will be August 24, 2022. Economic Development Authority met and discussed the housing study in the workshop packet, the Lille building, their levy wish list and stated their next meeting is September 13, 2022.

Council Member Wong stated the Planning Commission met and created a priority list for City Council. Resident concerns were addressed at this meeting regarding air quality and their next meeting is September 1, 2022. Arts and Culture Commission shared the rubric to determine artists for each different Snowy project.

Council Member Petersen met with Commissioners and discussed a decrease in employees and help for people who are struggling to make their mortgage payments.

Council Member Thorsen had nothing to report.

Mayor Furlong stated there will be a speaker at the POW/MIA parade on September 22, 2022 and thanked Council Member Cole for his help with this.

XI. GENERAL BUSINESS

Council Member Cole attended the swearing in of four new North St. Paul police officers and a sergeant promotion and is looking forward to the Chief of Police attending a City Council meeting. Thursday night is the last Music in the Parks at Casey Lake. Residents have contacted him and requested the City Council provide a sidewalk ordinance with regard to businesses. Mr. Frandle will update City Council at a later date.

Council Member Wong had nothing to report.

Council Member Petersen stated the swearing in was a good experience.

Council Member Thorsen recognized the American Legion for their patriotic mural and hopes it inspires others to doing something similar. He also noted an email from a concerned resident regarding planting trees in the boulevard and a possible policy in the future. He suggested a recap meeting with the HRA to look at the actual cost and profit made by the student-built house.

Mayor Furlong mentioned the possibility of a monument sign advertising the downtown area on the City owned property at 7th Avenue and McKnight. He also noted Veterans Park has 1,377 pavers and 25 more will be installed next Friday.

XII. CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Council Member Petersen, seconded by Council Member Wong, with all present voting aye (5-0), Mayor Furlong recessed the regular the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

/s/ Terrence J. Furlong, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Brian Frandle, Interim City Manager