

City of North Saint Paul
September 6, 2022
Approved City Council Workshop Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Furlong called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

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

Staff: Interim City Manager Brian Frandle, Assistant to the City Manager Jennie Kloos, City Attorney Jerad Shepherd, Public Works Director Ron Ritchie, Public Works Supervisor Randy Miller, Police Chief Phil Baebenroth, Police Sergeant Ben Badowich, Communications Consultant Kari Erpenbach, Consultant Dr. Craig Waldron, City Planner Brandy Howe

III. ADOPT AGENDA

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

IV. TOPIC(S)

A. Riot Response Experience and Safety Needs in North St. Paul/Fence Consortium

Sergeant Ben Badowich and Police Chief Phil Baebenroth described their law enforcement experience and stated demonstrations, protests, and riots continue to increase. Sergeant Badowich provided information about the fence consortium such as cost, set up and take down time, storage, public works employee training, examples of where and how it could be used, and the governing board that will consist of police chiefs, public works employees, and others when faced with a decision about which city would receive it given a simultaneous multiple city need.

Publics Works Director Ron Ritchie discussed how his department would handle this and the concerns from the Public Works Department. Mr. Ritchie stated 2-3 employees would need to be trained on the set up and take down of the fence and the budget cost would be minimal.

City Council and staff discussed alternative ways to help prevent riots and demonstrations, the effectiveness of an anti-scaling fence, and who would get it when needed by multiple agencies.

B. Sidewalk Encroachment Ordinance

City Planner Brandy Howe provided a brief presentation on the ordinance stating outdoor cafes must maintain a 54-inch pedestrian right-of-way, no alcohol will be allowed without a permit, and liability insurance would be required. Ms. Howe stated some of the language used in the ordinance was taken from other cities' ordinances. Ms. Howe did add language regarding statutes as part of the sidewalk encroachment.

The Council discussed storage of the outdoor patio furniture and snow removal during the winter. There were questions and concerns raised regarding the sale and consumption of alcohol and that wording may be changed in order to accommodate these concerns. There is also concern about the quantity of people in a designated café space.

Kelly Jonas, owner of Roddey's, provided input and noted customers enjoy sitting outside and stated agreement with the furniture guidelines.

C. Community Center – “The Next Step”

Dr. Craig Waldron, consultant, discussed what is next for the Community Center. Mr. Waldron discussed the long-term vision and recommended keeping the Community Center. He provided a brief timeline of this plan, noting it includes selecting an engineering group, overall costs, and bringing the management proposal to City Council. Then, if approved, looking at estimates and moving forward with bids. All of these steps will maintain a “fail safe” play so if the City Council does not like any of the proposals, this process does not have to continue and the City can look at other options for this building. Dr. Waldron discussed the expected cost to be around \$2 million stating the use of existing funds and other funding arrangements would almost cover the cost. Dr. Waldron recommended moving forward in order to continue to receive clearer and more defined details regarding this process.

There was discussion regarding this plan due to the upcoming elections, the possibility of three new members on the City Council, and how that will affect this development.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion by Council Member Petersen, seconded by Council Member Wong, with all present voting aye (5-0), Mayor Furlong adjourned the workshop meeting at 6:26 p.m.

/s/ Terrence J. Furlong, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Brian Frandle, Interim City Manager / Clerk