

City of North Saint Paul
September 6, 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, Assistant to the City Manager Jennie Kloos, Finance Director Dan Winek, City Attorney Jared Shepherd, Communications Consultant Kari Erpenbach, Consultant Craig Waldron, Public Works Director Ron Ritchie, Public Works Supervisor Randy Miller

IV. PRESENTATIONS

A. Mayoral Proclamation – Declaring POW/MIA Recognition Day in North St. Paul

Mayor Furlong read the proclamation and declared September 22, 2022 as POW/MIA Observance Day. Mayor Furlong also noted the POW/MIA parade will be September 22, 2022 beginning at the VFW and finishing at Veteran's Park.

V. ADOPT AGENDA

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

VI. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

On motion by Council Member Petersen, seconded by Council Member Wong, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve the consent agenda, Resolution No. 2022-082 consisting of:

Council Member Thorsen requested Consent Agenda Items H, M, N, Q, and R be removed and addressed under City Business Action Items & Recommendations

- A. August 8, 2022 special City Council meeting
- B. August 16, 2022 regular meeting minutes
- C. August 23, 2022 special workshop meeting minutes (budget)
- D. General Claims \$2,042,087.90
- E. HRA Claims \$476.47
- F. EDA Claims \$9,150.00
- G. Approve Tobacco License
- H. Community Center – “The Next Step” **Moved to City Business Action Items & Recommendations**
- I. Special Event – Annual POW/MIA Walk
- J. Special Event – Fallen Angel – end of summer party
- K. Special Event – Wine Tasting Event at Silver Lake
- L. Special Event – Church of St. Peter Fall Festival September 16-18, 2022
- M. 7th Avenue/Margaret Street Downtown Improvements – Change Order to No. 2
Moved to City Business Action Items & Recommendations
- N. City Manager Employment Agreement **Moved to City Business Action Items & Recommendations**
- O. Resolution appointing Brian Frandle as the Responsible Authority for Data Practices Act **Resolution No. 2022-077**
- P. Resolution approving Authorized Signatories for the City of North St. Paul
Resolution No. 2022-079
- Q. Fence Consortium Joint Powers Agreement **Moved to City Business Action Items & Recommendations**
- R. Authorizing the Statewide Public Works Mutual Aid Pact **Moved to City Business Action Items & Recommendations**

VII. MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC

John Schmahl commented on the lack of internet, budget brainstorming ideas, education requirements for City Manager, situation that was not on Lexus Nexus and an email that was not returned.

Jeff King expressed his frustration with City building inspections and the building permit process stemming from hail damage to his roof.

VIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no public hearings.

IX. CITY BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Downtown Furniture Guidelines

City Manager Brian Frandle provided information, pictures, and examples on the guidelines City Planner Brandy Howe had already discussed. Mayor Furlong questioned if a motion is needed for this item.

On motion by Council Member Thorsen, seconded by Council Member Petersen, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve the Downtown Furniture Guidelines allowing commercial grade patio furniture downtown.

Council Member Thorsen clarified the packet information is not an inclusive list but rather examples.

B. Community Center – “The Next Step”

Council Member Thorsen requested this item be pulled to state he is not in favor of this project and will be voting no.

On motion by Council Member Wong, 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 approving negotiations with Wold Group to bring back a management proposal to City Council for final approval.

C. 7th Avenue/Margaret Street Downtown Improvements – Change Order to No. 2

Council Member Thorsen expressed his concern with the landscaping portion of this project. He noted in order to install the irrigation lines, concrete would need to be removed. He suggested moving forward without the irrigation lines and changing the type of trees that are to be planted. Public Works Director Ron Ritchie stated the landscaping company will not guarantee the trees unless the irrigation lines are installed.

On motion by Council Member Petersen, seconded by Council Member Wong, with all present voting aye, (5-0), motion carried to approve Change Order No. 2 for the 7th Avenue/Margaret Street Downtown Improvements Project and expenditure of previously budgeted City funding for said Change Order, contracted by Amcon Construction with Midstate Excavating.

D. City Manager Employment Agreement

Council Member Thorsen questioned why the clothing allowance for a \$1,000 was removed and the car allowance increased. Mayor Furlong clarified the clothing and automobile allowance was previously given to the City Manager. Council Member Thorsen provided cost estimates to the City and suggested using a City-owned vehicle or receiving a mileage reimbursement if a personal vehicle is used.

Mayor Furlong stated the previous City Manager received a \$350 automobile allowance and suggested keeping that amount and not raising it to the proposed \$450.

City Attorney Shepherd recommended making a motion to edit contract to reflect the vehicle allowance from the current \$450 to \$350 for the position of City Manager.

On motion by Council Member Petersen, seconded by Council Member Cole, with Mayor Furlong and Council Members Thorsen, Petersen and Cole voting aye and Council Member Wong voting nay (4-1), motion carried to adopt Resolution No. 2022-078 approving City Manager Employment Contract with Brian Frandle changing the current vehicle allowance from \$450 to \$350.

E. Fence Consortium Joint Powers Agreement

Council Member Thorsen stated he pulled this item from the Consent Agenda, along with Item R, to inquire more about opinions. Mr. Ritchie stated his department would like to provide this service and he has had multiple conversations with Police Chief Baebenroth. Mr. Ritchie stated he would like two of his employees to receive the training.

Council Member Thorsen commented on the quick turnaround, lack of time to understand all of the information, and inquired about a specific approval date. Sergeant Badowich stated this is the last day for approval.

Sergeant Badowich provided a cost estimate if the City does not agree to be part of this consortium and a fence like this is needed in the future, noting it would be a huge cost to the City.

Council Member Wong questioned if approved could this trigger a union issue regarding their job description. Mr. Ritchie said it could possibly come up and the City would deal with it if that happened.

On motion by Council Member Thorsen, seconded by Council Member Cole, with Mayor Furlong and Council Members Thorsen, Petersen and Cole voting aye and Council Member Wong voting nay (4-1), motion carried to adopt Resolution No. 2022-080 Adopting the Fencing Consortium Joint Powers Agreement.

F. Authorizing the Statewide Public Works Mutual Aid Pact

Council Member Wong did not know both items were being voted on simultaneously and requested further discussion on this item.

City Attorney Shepherd stated the fence would be deployed in North St. Paul, if warranted. If there were a lower level need to deploy fence, it would go to the board for the final decision.

Council Member Wong inquired about the legislature potentially bringing in \$5,000 for the consortium. Sergeant Badowich stated there is no guarantee and suggested it may not be on the 2023 agenda.

Mayor Furlong questioned who stores the fencing. Sergeant Badowich stated there is a list of locations within the metro area but the board has the final decision.

Council Member Wong expressed her concern with First Amendment rights. Sergeant Badowich noted the fencing is there to create a barrier in order to increase safety and people's First Amendment rights.

Council Member Thorsen inquired about the seating process of the board members and who is on the consortium board. Sergeant Badowich explained that board members are voted in according to their by-laws and there are a variety of representatives from police chiefs, city managers, and public works employees. City Attorney Shepherd noted there is no guarantee the director of the consortium board will be held accountable for any problems or concerns.

On motion by Council Member Thorsen, seconded by Council Member Cole, with Mayor Furlong and Council Members Cole, Petersen and Thorsen voting aye and Council Member Wong voting nay (4-1), motion carried to adopt Resolution No. 2022-081 Approving the Public Works Mutual Aid Pact.

X. REPORTS OF CITY MANAGER AND DEPARTMENTS

Mr. Frandle provided an update on the student-built house at 2170 Eldridge St. He stated the asbestos has been removed, demolition can begin, and the new lot at 2172 will be built first.

Mayor Furlong congratulated Mr. Frandle on his position of City Manager.

XI. REPORTS OF COUNCIL, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Council Member Cole stated the Park and Recreation Commission discussed whether the Postal Credit Union Park is a park or just City-owned property, noted the Silver Lake Wine Tasting Fundraiser passed in the Consent Agenda, and encouraged everyone to attend.

Council Member Wong mentioned the Planning Commission discussed the height requirements and density bonus allowed for the Lillie Building. She also noted the Arts and Culture Commission meets tomorrow and will discuss murals and project Snowy.

Council Member Petersen stated Minnesota Women in Government are organizing a fall event and the business luncheon will be next Tuesday with guest speakers Techie Dudes.

Council Member Thorsen commented on the confusion about what the proper name for the Postal Credit Union Park should be.

Mayor Furlong stated the EDA meets next Tuesday and the POW/MIA parade is September 22nd with a guest speaker at 6:30 pm at the VFW and a candlelight walk to Veterans Park.

XII. GENERAL BUSINESS

Council Member Cole mentioned the fall round up parade will be September 15th. Mayor Furlong invited everyone to attend, stated this is the largest parade he has been a part of, and thanked the many North St. Paul businesses for their support.

Council Member Wong had nothing to report and congratulated Brian Frandle on the position of City Manager.

Council Member Petersen stated Friday night is the car show and will include the art cart and a police simulator. She also noted September 28th will be an opportunity to meet and greet candidates at 6 p.m. at the American Legion. She added she enjoyed the tour of the food and toy shelf and thanked the workers.

Mayor Furlong recommended the City Council tour both shops on October 4th at 4:15 p.m. Assistant to the City Manager Jennie Kloos will set it up.

Council Member Thorsen appreciated the update on the student-built house and requested an HRA meeting to review details and recap on the last student-built home.

XIII. CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Council Member Petersen, seconded by Council Member Wong, with all present voting aye (5-0), Mayor Furlong adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

/s/ Terrence J. Furlong, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Brian Frandle, City Manager / Clerk