

City of North Saint Paul
January 17, 2023
Approved City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Council Member Cole
Council Member Schweer
Council Member Nordby
Acting Mayor Wong
Mayor Monge absent

Staff: City Manager Brian Frandle, Assistant to the City Manager Jennie Kloos,
Community Development Director Brandy Howe, Communications Consultant
Kari Erpenbach

III. ADOPT AGENDA

Acting Mayor Wong requested the agenda be reordered to consider Item B before Item A.

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

IV. TOPICS

B. Sidewalk Encroachment Ordinance (aka Sidewalk Cafes)

Community Development Director Brandy Howe presented a review of the draft ordinance. The draft looked at licensing, fees, regulations, layouts and would allow for a sidewalk with 7.5 feet of pedestrian area and 8.5 feet of amenity and utility area. Liability insurance, alcohol licensure and furnishing recommendations would be required.

Council Member Nordby inquired if ordinance language could allow for outdoor sidewalk activity until the City enacts winter parking. He also requested clarification on the legal standard of commercial grade furniture and suggested running it by the City Attorney. Ms. Howe noted she will discuss this with City Attorney Mattick.

Council Member Schweer commented on the potential liability of plastic furniture usage and questioned the revocation process.

After questions from the Council, Ms. Howe summarized the discussion details as follows:

- Barriers to be defined and decorative

- Warning process before revocation notice
- Smoking vs. Non-Smoking
- Better language regarding furniture guidelines
- Possible exception for warm weather in November
- Permit holder's responsibility
- Consistency across all bars/restaurants in the downtown area
- Possible amendment to liquor license

Ms. Howe will discuss these items with City Attorney Mattick and bring back information to a future meeting.

A. MPCA Electric Vehicle Charging Station Grant

Ms. Howe stated funding from the Pollution Control Agency would be used to install 88 new charging stations. She reviewed eligibility requirements, maximum amount awarded per application, eligible costs, evaluation criteria, and potential locations. Ms. Howe also noted the deadline is February 28th and this would need to be done as soon as possible.

Mr. Frandle stated he will inquire about 24-hour 7 days a week parking and put out a survey to businesses to gain opinions and feedback. Ms. Howe requested future charging locations to be determined in order to know how many grants to apply for.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion by Council Member Schweer, seconded by Council Member Nordby, with all present voting aye (4-0), Acting Mayor Wong adjourned the workshop meeting at 5:51 p.m.

/s/ Lisa Wong, Acting Mayor

/s/ Brian Frandle, City Manager / Clerk