

City of North Saint Paul
April 18, 2023
Approved Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Monge 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 Nordby
Council Member Schweer
Council Member Cole
Council Member Wong
Mayor Monge

Staff: City Manager Brian Frandle, Assistant to the City Manager Jennie Kloos, Finance Director Daniel Winek, Community Development Director Brandy Howe, Communications Staff Kari Erpenbach, Public Works Director Ron Ritchie, City Engineer Morgan Dawley, City Attorney Jared Shepherd

IV. ADOPT AGENDA

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

V. PRESENTATIONS

A. Century College Presentation of 916 Student Built Home Interior Design

Tom Spehn provided a construction update and turned it over to Catherine Harrington to discuss the interior design. It was noted Ms. Harrington's students reviewed the interior design and explained the design concept, furniture design layout, exterior siding, lower-level layout, main level layout that included light fixtures, flooring, wall color, and appliances for the student-built home at 2172 Eldridge Ave E.

B. Ramsey County Presentation of County HRA Levy

Ramsey County Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt presented this item, introduced the Housing and Redevelopment Chair Mai Chong Xiong, and expressed their concern regarding the increase in housing costs. Kari Collins, Director of Community and Economic Development with Ramsey County, discussed the need for affordable housing and noted those needs vary from City to City within Ramsey County. Josh Olson discussed new programs and plans in order to reach more residents.

Council Member Wong inquired about each City's decision-making process. Ms. Collins stated through a Resolution of Support, Ramsey County can levy on behalf of any city within the organization. It was noted North St. Paul would have to pass the Resolution of Support by July 1, 2023 in order for it to begin in 2024. Ms. Collins also stated North St. Paul has the option to pass another Resolution if they wanted to opt out by July of the following year.

C. Tax Increment Financing (T.I.F.)

Finance Director Dan Winek presented this item, defined TIF, and provided an overview. He noted more specific questions can be directed toward Baker Tilly or the City's legal consultants. He reviewed how TIF is created, the need for public financing, types of TIF districts, eligible costs, methods for financing options, current TIF districts and expiration date, pooling of some funds, and general pooling.

VI. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

On motion by Council Member Cole, seconded by Council Member Nordby, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve the consent agenda, Resolution No. 2023-147 consisting of:

- A. April 4, 2023 workshop meeting minutes
- B. April 4, 2023 regular meeting minutes
- C. General Claims \$1,306,894.04
- D. HRA Claims \$35,416.58
- E. Purchase 2-3phase Fuse Cabinets and 5-1phase Fuse Cabinets
- F. Solar Powered LED Crosswalk Signage
- G. Terminate the City of North St. Paul's COVID-19 Operational Policy ***Resolution No. 2023-148***
- H. Building Permit Report – March 2023
- I. Resolution Accepting Donations – March 2023 ***Resolution No. 2023-149***

VII. MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC

Sue Springborn, president of the North St. Paul Historical Society, encouraged residents with a story regarding the COVID-19 pandemic to send it to her so it can be documented. She also invited the City Council to attend the April 25th Historical Society meeting.

John Schmahl expressed his concern regarding email notification agenda changes.

VIII. CITY BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Participation in New National Opioid Settlements

City Manager Brian Frandle presented this item and stated this involves the distributors.

On motion by Council Member Nordby, seconded by Council Member Wong, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to adopt Resolution No. 2023-150, Approving the Amended Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Between the State of Minnesota and Local Governments and Authorizing Participation in National Opioid Settlements.

B. Request of Independent School District 622 for Two School Resource Officers

Police Chief Phil Baebenroth, current School Resource Officer at North High Josh Allen, and Sergeant DeCory presented this item. Mr. Baebenroth provided background information and school-related statistics. Both officers described their day-to-day activities and how many acts of violence are stopped by being present and interacting with students. Mr. Baebenroth also provided statistics on the number of calls regarding firearms and that the number of calls has doubled in the last couple of years.

Mr. Baebenroth discussed the inequity surrounding funding and salary for their school resource officer. Mr. Baebenroth is requesting a Resolution of Support from the City Council to take to the next School Board meeting and provide the same information regarding the need for another School Resource Officer within the District.

After questions from the Council, Mr. Baebenroth, Officer Allen and Sergeant DeCory provided the following information:

- Officer Allen tries to stay as inconspicuous as possible and observe students
- Would be overjoyed to have another officer in the district
- Job requires dealing with parents as well as students
- Communication is done through walkie talkies, telephone, and the officer's police radio
- Safety of the School Resource Officer is essential
- Time is of concern as the school budget needs to be completed by June of 2023
- The School Resource Officer is in contact with the school's mental health professionals on a daily basis and work very well together
- Could not speculate on why the district would not be in favor of another School Resource Officer for District 622.

Officer Allen added the school has a "Behavior Team" who helps with certain aspects of security but are often hands off due to fear of injury. Mr. Baebenroth noted other districts have two or more School Resource Officers and are better paid.

City Attorney Jared Shepherd clarified that in order to table this item to a future date, language will need to state a postponement to a future meeting.

On motion by Council Member Wong, seconded by Council Member Cole, with Council Members Wong and Cole voting aye and Mayor Monge and Council Members Schweer and Nordby voting nay, (3-2), motion failed to postpone the item.

On motion by Council Member Nordby, seconded by Council Member Schweer, with Mayor Monge and Council Members Cole, Schweer, and Nordby voting aye and Council Member Wong voting nay (4-1), motion carried to adopt Resolution No. 2023-151, Formally Requesting of Independent School District 622 for Two School Resource Officer Positions.

C. Hause Park Court Reconstruction Project – Receive and Reject All Bids

Mr. Frandle presented this item and stated bids were approved February 7th but were over budget. He suggested putting this off until next year. Community Development Director Brandy

Howe applied for the DNR outdoor recreation grant that would pay for half of this project. The improvements consist of pickle ball courts with tennis court option, concrete walks, and alternate ADA walkway. Mr. Frandle recommended City Council accept and reject all bids and put off this project until 2024. Council Member Nordby inquired about safety concerns if left undone. Ms. Howe stated she discussed this with Public Works Director Ron Ritchie and he stated no safety concerns if the project was moved to next year.

On motion by Council Member Nordby, seconded by Council Member Schweer, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to adopt Resolution No. 2023-152, Accepting Bids Received and Rejecting All Bids for the Hause Park Court Reconstruction Project.

IX. REPORTS OF CITY MANAGER AND DEPARTMENTS

A. Electric Department Update – Electric Director, John Wick

Electric Director John Wick provided an update and reviewed the department's meters, line voltage, staff, line crew facts, training, and solar customers. He discussed the supply chain issues and how that has halted or pushed back various projects. This has also led to using other distributors which are unsure of product and have had to buy in bulk when available. Mayor Monge inquired about more storage for bulk purchases. Mr. Wick also discussed EV charging station locations and needed equipment for upgrades.

Council Member Nordby requested clarification on how the boundaries for the electric department were established. Mr. Wick stated the boundaries were established long ago and the City's boundaries are pushed to the edge of their territory. Mr. Wick thanked Mr. Frandle for his continued knowledge and support.

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Council Member Cole stated the EDA met last week and noted the challenges with the Fall Round Up Parade. The next EDA meeting will be Wednesday, May 9th at 3:00 p.m.

Council Member Wong stated the Arts and Culture Commission posted voting for the utility boxes and added there were over 100 responses.

Council Member Nordby stated the Planning Commission met and are reviewing the Comp Plan and Zoning Plan to create more consistency.

Council Member Schweer stated Parks and Recreation Commission will meet next Wednesday.

XI. GENERAL BUSINESS

Council Member Wong noted the Community Center is one of 15 bills up for discussion at the legislature.

Council Member Cole added St. Marks Church is looking for more donations for NSP police officers. They are asking for food in single serve packages and beverages, which can be dropped off at the church office.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion by Council Member Schweer, seconded by Council Member Cole, with all present voting aye (5-0), Mayor Monge adjourned the meeting at 9:37 p.m.

/s/ John Monge, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Brian Frandle, City Manager / Clerk