

City of North Saint Paul
July 18, 2023
Approved City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Council Member Cole
Council Member Schweer
Council Member Wong arrived at 5:46 p.m.
Council Member Nordby
Mayor Monge

Staff: City Manager Brian Frandle, Assistant to the City Manager Jennie Kloos, Police Chief Phil Baebenroth, Police Officer Collin Betts, Community Service Officer Je'veon Evans, Communications Kari Erpenbach

III. ADOPT AGENDA

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

IV. TOPICS

A. K9 Presentation

Police Chief Baebenroth presented this item. He stated North St. Paul's Police Department is currently dependent on one of the five surrounding Metro K-9 departments. He described the use, mission and advantages of having a K-9 on staff. He noted a K-9 program also enhances the department through retention, recruitment opportunities, officer development, strengthening trust within community and community engagement.

Mr. Baebenroth recommended the use of two K-9 dogs to fulfill the day and night shifts. He noted this will reduce overtime by allowing training to occur on duty. He discussed cost and the one-time use of public safety funds to be used in part for these two positions. He described the initial cost and the yearly maintenance cost. He added he would extend the vehicle replacement cycle and use additional money from the School Resource Officer program to help cover the yearly cost of this program.

Deputy Boddie with the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office provided background information on his dog and his own work experience as a K-9 handler. He described his bi-weekly training and the variety of deployments a K-9 dog can be involved in. He also stressed a K-9 and its handler provide a wonderful way to connect with the community.

Steve Pearson, Owner/Trainer with Performance Kennels, described the selection and training process of a K-9 dog. He stated the training is a 12-week program that upon completion the dog and handler will be approved for patrol work.

Mayor Monge inquired about the retainability of a dog if an officer moves to another department. Mr. Pearson stated the dog is retrainable.

Council Member Nordby inquired about the type of dog Mr. Pearson brings. Mr. Pearson stated they are dual-purpose dogs which are used for narcotic searches and patrol calls.

Mayor Monge inquired if this would require any additional staffing. Mr. Baebenroth stated this would not use or need any additional staffing and described how the process would be carried out. He also added when handlers are training their dogs, they are still on duty and can be utilized if necessary.

B. 17th Avenue/Delaware Development Site – Presentation by High Pointe

Community Development Director Brandy Howe introduced this item and described the decade long, City owned property.

Jim Boo, representing High Pointe, provided a short video introducing previous developments and explained the mission of High Pointe and his experience in the land development business. He briefly described his general building plan and stated his commitment to community needs and relationships in North St. Paul. Mr. Boo also noted the price will be based on neighborhood use and stressed the importance of affordability. He noted one level units could be added on to each end and stated his willingness to be flexible. He encouraged anyone to check out his website for more information.

C. 17th Avenue/Delaware Development Site – Presentation by K & T and Andrus

Community Development Director Brandy Howe introduced this item and described the decade long, City owned property.

Doug Andrus, representing Andrus Built LLC and Tracy Luther, representing K & T North St. Paul Investments LLC, introduced themselves and detailed their work on this site. They provided a drawing of what can fit in that space and stated according to the dimensions, the site can be divided into six standard City lots for custom-built single-family homes.

Council Member Wong inquired about a possible Planned Unit Development (PUD) to make smaller lots to increase density and expressed her concern with maintenance if units were sold to the elderly population. Mr. Luther stated if the lot is too small and the house is too small, it will not sell.

Council Member Cole inquired about choosing a development company tonight. Ms. Howe noted the engineering study would be able to provide more information.

Mr. Frandle recommended City Council members send questions to staff and staff will bring answers back to a future City Council meeting.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

There were no presentations.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Council Member Cole, seconded by Council Member Wong, with all present voting aye (5-0), meeting is adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

/s/ John Monge, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Brian Frandle, City Manager / Clerk